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# NME

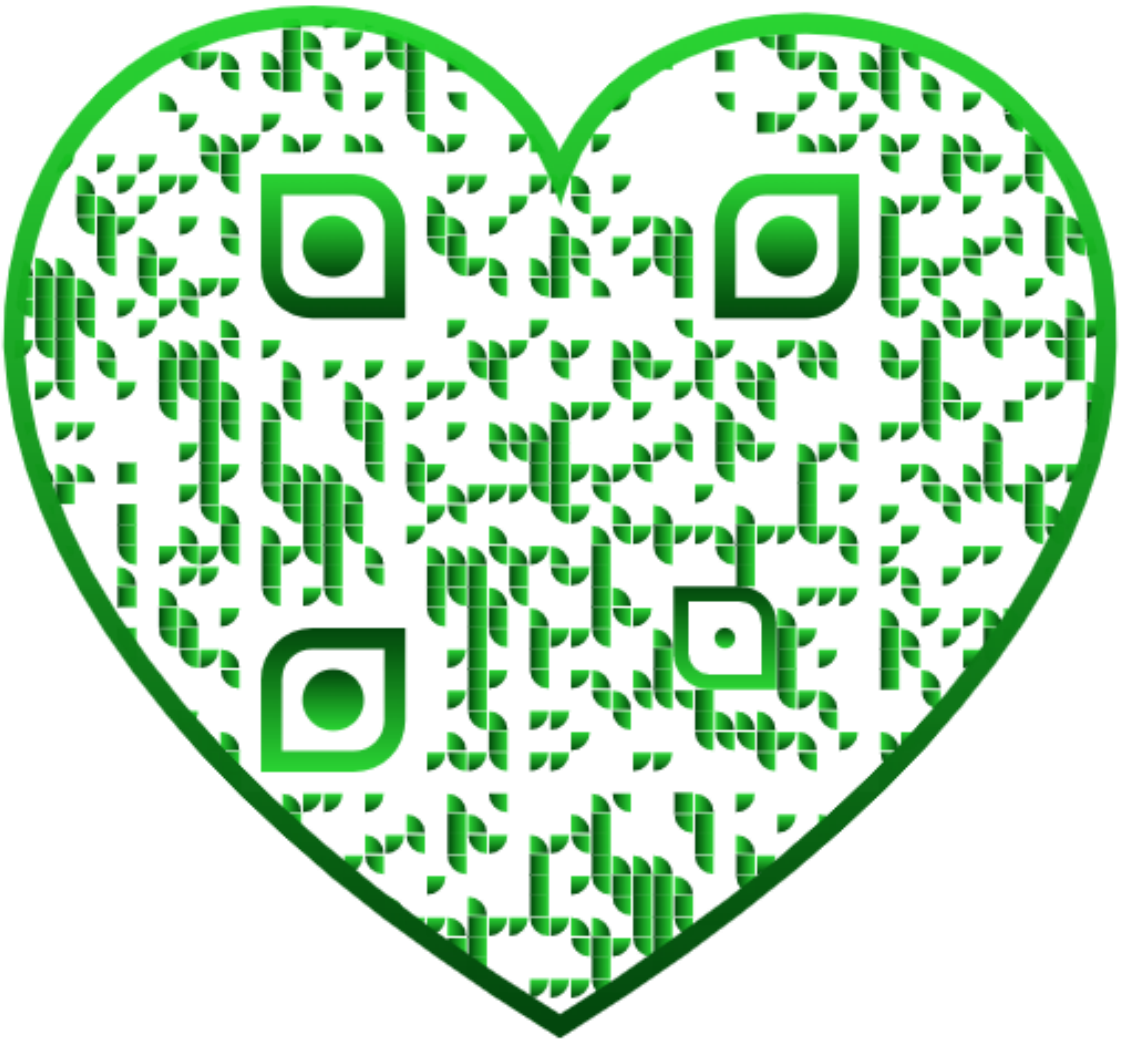
MUSIC
FILM
STYLE

**KILL YOUR FRIENDS**
The greatest soundtrack since Trainspotting?

## From boy to... MURDERER

NICHOLAS HOULT and the darkside of the music biz

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW BY AUTHOR JOHN NIVEN



I OBSERVE THINGS
AND REMEMBER THEM VERY ACCURATELY.
I THINK THAT EVEN THE WAY IN WHICH
A MAN SHAVES IN THE MORNING
IS WELL WORTH RECORDING.

Ian Fleming™

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# NME

# Hello...

FILM AND TV HAS a habit of portraying anyone who works in the music industry – especially in A&R – as a total tosser. Step forward the biggest tosser of them all, Steven Stelfox, the lead character in John Niven's dark and hilarious 2008 novel, *Kill Your Friends*.

Stelfox is such a tool that this is what he thinks of the general public (ie you):

"One thing you'll learn when you're in the business of selling utter sh*te to the Great British Public is that there's really no bottom to where they'll go. Sh*t food, sh*t TV, sh*t bands, sh*t films, sh*t houses. The sh*ttier you can make it… the more they'll eat it up with a big f***ing spoon."

OK, actually, that's pretty funny. But *totally* untrue.

So how did Nicholas Hoult – one of the UK biggest rising stars and now the living, breathing embodiment of Stelfox on film – get into character to play such a terrible human being, and is (or at least was) the music industry as awful as *Kill Your Friends* makes it seem?

We sent the only person for the job, bestselling author John Niven himself, to get into Hoult's head. The result is one of the best interviews you'll read all year. Enjoy.

**MIKE WILLIAMS**
***Editor-in-Chief***
**@itsmikelike**

**Halsey, doing her thing on p34**

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# AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

# Unseen Amy

**Never-before-seen pics of Amy Winehouse**

With the DVD release of the heartbreaking documentary *Amy* and its soundtrack album out now, unseen snaps from 2003 sessions for the artwork of Amy Winehouse's debut album 'Frank' have emerged. "They're from two sessions, the first was in London and the second was in New York," says photographer Charles Moriarty. "It was about four months before 'Frank' came out. She was great, we had a lot of fun. She was a really kind personality and really gave to you. We had a lot of laughs." For a review of the *Amy* soundtrack album, go to page 36.

***Amy* is available on Blu-ray & DVD from Monday, the soundtrack is released today**

## The Ritz, London

**Charles Moriarty:** "That's in the laundry room of The Ritz. We were just trying to find a location to have a bit of fun with, and I think Amy had a lot of American kitsch attached to her. She was interested in old Americana, so it sort of fit."

## The Ritz Tower, New York

**Charles Moriarty:** "That's New York. We got really lucky and stayed in The Ritz Tower. This was just a snapshot in the bathroom while we were getting ready to go out. We had a hectic journey, we only had 24 hours, and it rained most of the time, so all our locations had been taken off the table and we ended up shooting in The Ritz. It was a lot of fun."

## New York

**Charles Moriarty:** "This was late in the night in New York. We were making our way through SoHo, and the colours in the phone box just leapt out at me. While we were trying at the time to keep the location neutral, this little moment was fun, and was one of the first images we shot there."

WORDS: MARK BEAUMONT PHOTOS: CHARLES MORIARTY

The Cribs play Brundenell Social Club, 2007

# The smaller the better

**Behold, the shortlist for *NME* and Jack Daniel's annual poll to find Britain's Best Small Venue. These 10 are doing their bit to keep grassroots music alive in the UK**

NME BRITAIN'S BEST SMALL VENUE IN ASSOCIATION WITH JACK DANIEL'S

### BRUDENELL SOCIAL CLUB
**Location:** Leeds
**Capacity:** 400
**Best ever moment:** "Cribsmas, the three nights we did with The Cribs back in 2007. That's become part of Brudenell's folklore." – Nathan Clark, General Manager
**Upcoming gigs:** Kurt Vile, Nov 17; H09909, Dec 10.

### THE SUGARMILL
**Location:** Stoke
**Capacity:** 400
**Best ever moment:** "We had Foals play here just before they released 'Holy Fire' and Yannis was swinging from the lighting rig." – Danni Brownsill, Head Promoter
**Upcoming gigs:** Pretty Vicious, Nov 30; Fat White Family, Dec 3.

### CLWB IFOR BACH
**Location:** Cardiff
**Capacity:** 200
**Best ever moment:** "Pavement in '97, Strokes in 2001, Super Furry Animals' three-night stand in 2005... Recently, Pretty Vicious, Wolf Alice and Catfish And The Bottlemen have all been phenomenal." – Richard Hawkins, Promotions and Works Manager
**Upcoming gigs:** Ringo Deathstarr, Nov 13; Yak, Dec 2.

The Strokes at Clwb Ifor Bach, 2001

### THE SQUARE
**Location:** Harlow
**Capacity:** 250
**Best ever moment:** "When Steve Lamacq did a live broadcast of a Coldplay gig for Radio 1 in 2000." – Adam Smith, Venue Manager
**Upcoming gigs:** INME, Nov 14; Gaz Coombes, Dec 8.

### RAMSGATE MUSIC HALL
**Location:** Ramsgate
**Capacity:** 130
**Best ever moment:** "Sebadoh, who've been going since 1986, told us that their show at the Music Hall earlier this year was in their top five gigs of all time!" – Julian Bigg, Co-owner
**Upcoming gigs:** Viet Cong, Nov 25; Bill Ryder-Jones, Dec 9.

### KING TUT'S WAH-WAH HUT
**Location:** Glasgow
**Capacity:** 300
**Best ever moment:** "M83 in 2008 – that one was f***ing incredible." – John Paul Mason, Booker
**Upcoming gigs:** Reverend And the Makers, Nov 22; Barrie James O'Neill, Dec 14.

### THINK TANK?
**Location:** Newcastle
**Capacity:** 250
**Best ever moment:** "Royal Blood last year. There were about six people there." – Stephen Davis, Promoter/Manager
**Upcoming gigs:** The Ordinary Boys, Nov 11; The Enemy, Nov 24.

### THE SEBRIGHT ARMS
**Location:** London
**Capacity:** 150
**Best ever moment:** "We've had East India Youth play here three times because he loves it so much. He's a fantastic musician and I go to every show he does here!" – Loretta De Feo, Venue Manager
**Upcoming gigs:** Autobahn, Dec 1; Practical Lovers, Dec 4.

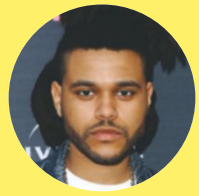
### THE ALMA
**Location:** Bolton
Capacity: 130
**Best ever moment:** "We had Bam Margera's band F***face Unstoppable play a couple of years ago and had people queuing up from 7am to get in." – Jim McGranthin, Owner
**Upcoming gigs:** If I Die Tomorrow, Nov 21; Beyond The Fallen, Nov 28.

### THE GUILDHALL
**Location:** Gloucester
**Capacity:** 400
**Best ever moment:** "A lot of bands who play here end up coming back because they enjoy it so much, like The Cribs, who played a Glastonbury warm-up earlier this year." – Dan Charles, Programming and Marketing Manager
**Upcoming gigs:** Stornoway, Nov 27; Canary Swing, Dec 11.

## Vote now!
**There can only be one winner, and you can vote for your favourite small venue from November 3 at NME.com/smallvenues**

## Last W33K IN NUMBERS

**£400m**
Predicted worldwide opening weekend takings for *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, after huge pre-sales.



**50**
Hours of community service The Weeknd will have to do for punching a police officer in January.

**£3.15m**
Takings on 'Back To The Future Day', when the trilogy was re-released to mark the date Marty heads to in *BTTF2*.

**15**
The age of the girl Robbie Williams flirted with at a gig before realising she was just a child.

WORDS: BARRY NICHOLSON PHOTOS: JORDAN HUGHES, GETTY

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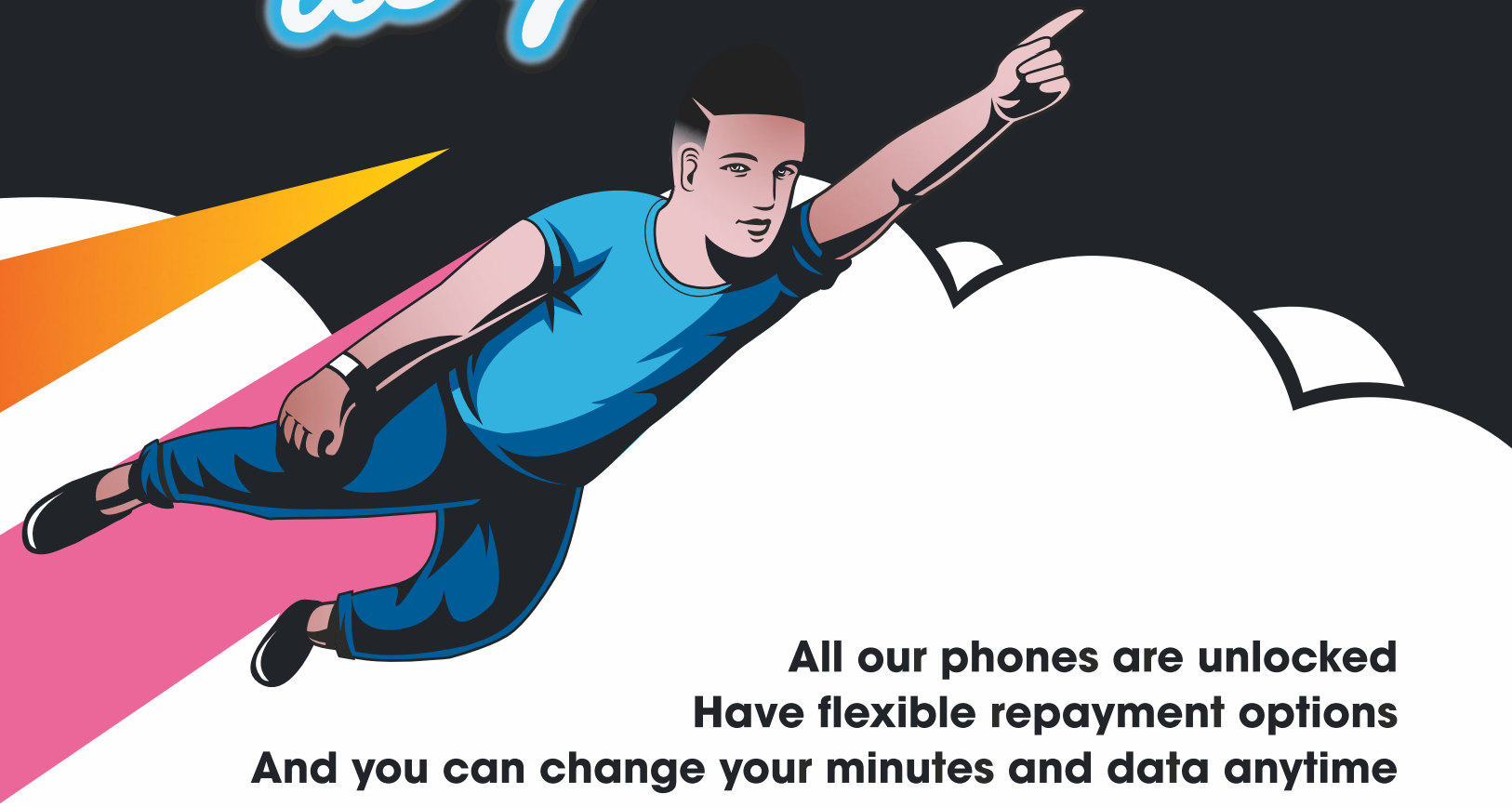

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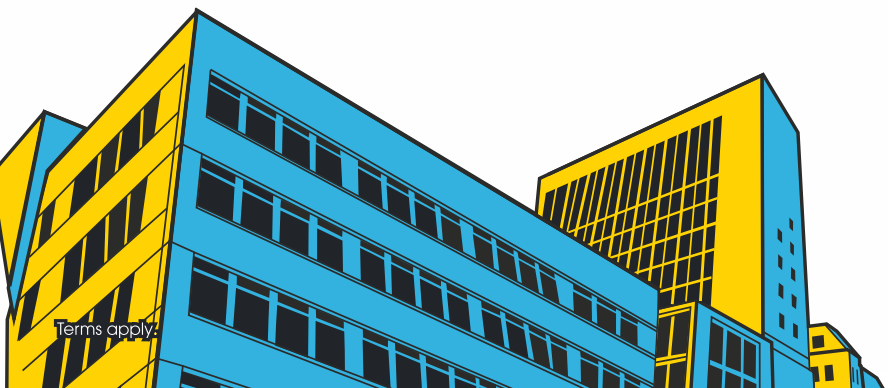

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Noel and Liam Gallagher

The Prodigy's Keith Flint

# Kill Your Friends: the best soundtrack since Trainspotting?

**Our man from the '90s, Mark Beaumont, compares the two**

THE FACT THAT JOHN NIVEN'S *Kill Your Friends* was set in 1997 bode ill for the soundtrack. The book purported to be set at the height of Britpop, but the scene's bubble had well and truly burst in a canon of cheques aimed squarely at the 'Be Here Now' stodge rockers by then. 1997 was the beginning of Britpop's hangover, so you'd expect the soundtrack to be a plod through a bunch of Seahorses B-sides with The Verve's 'Bitter Sweet Symphony' slapped all over every key plot twist.

Not so. In keeping with the murderous tone of the novel, the soundtrack focuses on the darker side of the alternative scene over several decades, and some are proclaiming it the best film soundtrack since *Trainspotting*. I wouldn't go that far – it doesn't capture the era with as much poise and panache as including Blur's 'Sing', Pulp's 'Mile End' and Elastica's '2:1' did, and there are few moments likely to be as iconic as Ewan McGregor sinking into a carpet in a smack reverie to Lou Reed's 'Perfect Day' or fleeing the rozzers to Iggy's 'Lust For Life'.

Nicholas Hoult in *Kill Your Friends*

Yet *Kill Your Friends* contains evocative masterstrokes that places it amongst the finest rock flick soundtracks in history. To open with Blur's dank, obsessive love song to heroin 'Beetlebum', for instance, captures the scene's slip towards self-destruction perfectly. There's a smart one-two of Gallagher – Noel's visceral guest spot on The Chemical Brothers' 'Setting Sun' rubs up to Liam's anthem of excess 'Cigarettes & Alcohol'. Radiohead's 'Karma Police' reflects the creeping paranoia of the drug-flooded '90s music industry, while The Prodigy's 'Smack My Bitch Up' serves to illustrate, like the film, how the chirpy gaddaboutery of the age went hand-in-hand with a fair old wad of amoral indecency.

What's more, Maxine Ashley's cover of Sneaker Pimps' '6 Underground' adds to the narcotic haze and Ol' Dirty Bastard and Mark Morrison bring a certain menace. In all, it sounds like a slow slide into post-Britpop derangement, exactly as the *Kill Your Friends* soundtrack should. But hang on – no 'This Is Hardcore'?

**Read *Kill Your Friends* author John Niven's exclusive interview with Nicholas Hoult on page 22**

## The tracklisting

**Blur** 'Beetlebum'
**Rudimental (feat. John Newman)** 'Good Thing'
**Bastille** 'Overload'
**The Chemical Brothers** 'Setting Sun'
**Oasis** 'Cigarettes & Alcohol'
**Echo And The Bunnymen** 'The Killing Moon'
**Radiohead** 'Karma Police'
**Maxine Ashley** '6 Underground'
**Blue Boy** 'Remember Me'
**Ol' Dirty Bastard** 'Shimmy Shimmy Ya'
**Gang Starr** 'Blowin' Up The Spot'
**The Prodigy** 'Smack My Bitch Up'
**Frida Sundemo** 'Heroes'
**Sash!** 'Encore Une Fois' (Future Breeze edit)
**Doof** 'Suck My D*ck'
**Songbirds** 'Sun Goes Down'
**Mark Morrison** 'Return Of The Mack'
**Royal Blood** 'Blood Hands'

GETTY, REX FEATURES

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# Meow that's what I call music

**A cat called Lil Bub is releasing an album. Sounds silly, is silly. Get into it**

IN 2011, MUSICIAN AND STUDIO-owner Mike Bridavsky adopted a kitten with an unusual form of dwarfism, which gives her large eyes and a tongue that always sticks out. He named her Lil Bub (Lillian Bubbles) and created Bublog, a Tumblr about her, for his friends. "I always joked that my cat was going to be famous," he says. "It was that really ironic, sarcastic sh*t people our age do as a joke." An hour-long *Vice* documentary and four years later, Bub's an internet phenomenon. She recently mewled on Run The Jewels' cat remix album, 'Meow The Jewels', and in December will release her debut album, 'Science & Magic'.

Lil Bub

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Mike Bridavsky with Lil Bub

## Why Lil Bub has an album

Bridavsky is in a four-piece band from Indiana called Memory Map, whose guitarist, Matt Tobey, has written all the music for *Lil Bub's Big Show*, a YouTube hit that launched in 2013. Says Bridavsky: "People would constantly comment, 'We would love an album of these.'" So they made one. It's easy to mock the concept, but as Bridavsky points out, "The album wouldn't exist without her."

## What it sounds like

Tobey is a huge videogame fan and the joyous *Sonic The Hedgehog*-style music he wrote for Bub is influenced by 8-bit, Nintendo 64 soundtracks. "It really fits Bub's spirit," Bridavsky says. "I listen to it all the time. I didn't write the music so it's not too absurd for me to listen to my own cat's record."

## How the cat actually helped

Bridavsky and his mates decided to write 'Science & Magic' as a concept album that offers a playful, bogus backstory to explain Lil Bub's unusual appearance. "You can believe it in a way, without getting too serious," he explains. "The story goes that she crashed her spaceship. Maybe she's part shape-shifter – she found this litter of cats and she made herself look as close as possible to these other creatures to get by."

Lil Bub in the studio

## The trippiness is magical

The album "takes you on Bub's journey", says Mike. On the first song, 'Hello Earth', Bub's spaceship lands. On the next, 'New Gravity', she has difficulty walking because the gravity is more intense here. "A lot of this stuff is tongue-in-cheek," Mike says, "but she's so special. I know thousands of people whose lives have been improved by her existence. I truly believe that she's a very powerful force of energy."

**'Science & Magic' by Lil Bub is out Dec 4 via Joyful Noise Recordings**

WORDS: LARRY BARTLEET PHOTOS: GETTY

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# LIST FOR LIFE

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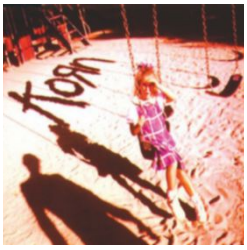
## 10 album covers that could be horror film posters




### 1 Korn
**'KORN'**
**The film pitch:** A Freddy Krueger-type character terrorises suburbia, to the tune of baggy-jeaned, bagpipe-assisted angst metal.

### 4 Lady Gaga
**'BORN THIS WAY'**
**The film pitch:** Chopper, part-motor machine, part-feminist badass, rides the streets issuing vigilante justice to scumbag bros.

### 2 Funkadelic
**'MAGGOT BRAIN'**
**The film pitch:** 'Maggot Brain' has got zombie-funk epidemic and blaxploitation classic written all over it.

### 5 Crystal Castles
**'CRYSTAL CASTLES II'**
**The film pitch:** A grainy-looking indie-flick *Children Of The Corn*, kinda like Larry Clark's *Kids* if Chloë Sevigny and co were cannibals.

### 3 Tyler The Creator
**'BASTARD'**
**The film pitch:** Unruly kids rebel against Ofsted officers and GCSE exam invigilators. Basically *Byker Grove* by John Carpenter.

### 6 Iron Maiden
**'KILLERS'**
**The film pitch:** The story of Maiden mascot Eddie, a nine-foot monster whose bloodlust is equalled only by his desire for wailing guitar solos.

### 7 BadBadNotGood
**'BBNG2'**
**The film pitch:** A psycho farmer gets revenge on a dastardly PM who, in this fictional universe, has done unspeakable things to his prize pig.

### 8 Ghostface Killah
**'36 SEASONS'**
**The film pitch:** For a full nine years, a demon unleashes his murderous rage on an unsuspecting US town. Oh, and he can also rap.

### 9 The Horrors
**'STRANGE HOUSE'**
**The film pitch:** An arty black-and-white effort in which the band's hometown of Southend-on-Sea is besieged by gothy scarecrows.

### 10 The Prodigy
**'MUSIC FOR THE JILTED GENERATION'**
**The film pitch:** Frontman Keith Flint stalks DJ booths at raves, waiting for idiots to request David Guetta and teaching them a torturous lesson.

**Go to NME.com for more lists**

## GOOD WEEK

### Chris Rock
Hosting the Oscars following an 11-year break, after his first turn was deemed "too controversial".

### Amy Schumer
Following the success of *Trainwreck*, for which she earned $300k, the comedian will bag $5m for her next film.

### Katy Perry
She's been trying to buy a former convent in LA but its ex-inhabitants are having nun of it.

### Glastonbury
Both Adele and Ed Sheeran say they're not interested in headlining next year's festival.

## BAD WEEK

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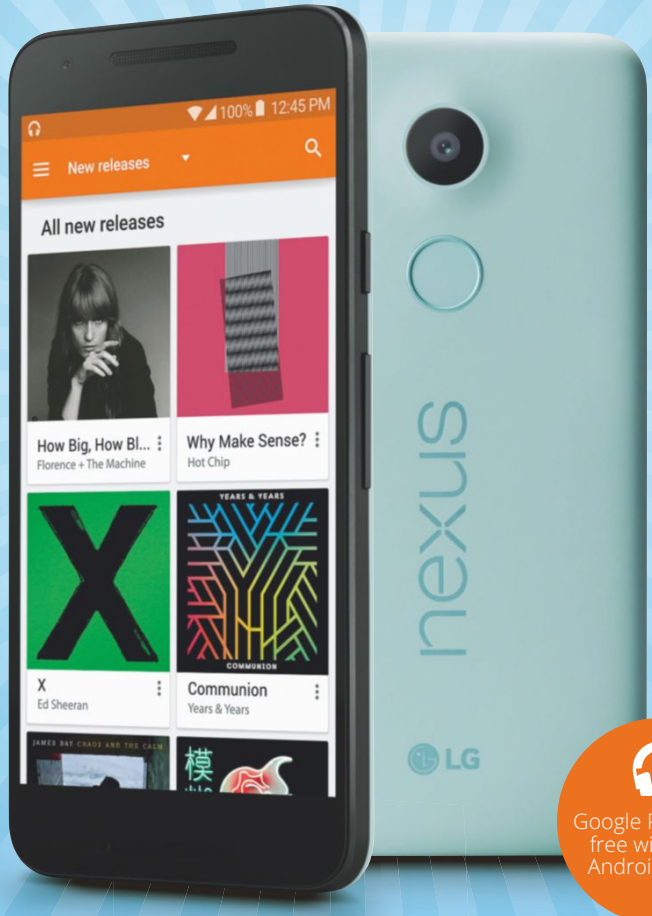


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# Katherine Ryan

NME'S QUITE NEW COLUMNIST

ON...

# Parenting

I'VE DECIDED THAT I'M completely rock'n'roll. A journalist asked me recently, "What's the most rock'n'roll thing you've ever done?" Well, I know that Keith Richards snorted his father's ashes. Is that just a really sad and potentially carcinogenic way a grieving son tries to get close to his dead relative or is it the very definition of rock'n'roll? If it is, I accidentally brushed my teeth after my dad had just mistaken my toothbrush for his own. I could taste that it was still minty and wet so I confronted my sister before my dad confessed to his error. I didn't clean my mouth with my father's spit on purpose, and I cried for a good 15 minutes afterwards, but I think I would have made the Rolling Stone proud.

Keith Richards: 100 per cent rock'n'roll

**I'm from** North America, where the men are routinely circumcised, though I doubt I'd ever get my own son done. "The other kids will make fun of him for being different, Katherine." "What if your future husband wants his son circumcised?" First of all, *what* future husband, playa? Secondly, there's no d*ck that I want bad enough that I'd hurt an innocent baby to get to it. Full stop.

I am an undisputed gangster. To me, that means playing by my own rules. As an attachment parent, people often ask how I was able to potty train my daughter before her first birthday. I've never properly explained that before, so if you're interested in saving the world from nappy waste and being a smug hero in your own local National Childbirth Trust group, here's how that went down.

Think about it – by putting children in nappies, we are training them to *go* in their pants. Just when they get used to it, we change everything and say, "Actually mate, you're going to do that on the toilet now." Toddlers, being natural born gangsters themselves, are like, "*nope*," and then you've got a fight on your hands. My daughter wore standard nappies as a newborn. But when she started on solid foods, I could see in her face when she needed to poop. I'd whip her onto the potty as quickly as possible, then celebrate after she'd been. In addition, she'd be rewarded with about an hour of nappyless nudity. Bliss.

**"I am an undisputed gangster. To me, that means playing by my own rules"**

She was my only friend at the time, so I learned British sign language and taught it to her so that we could communicate. Babies know what you're saying before they can speak, so all you have to do is sign while you're talking to them as you normally would. Violet could sign 30 words by the time she was seven months old. Just the basics really: how to ask for the potty (so that I no longer had to anticipate the poop face), apple, drink, mummy, milk, inside, outside, cold, hot, tired, careful, vodka, Beyoncé, Tinder, ISIS. She slept in my bed every night, despite my grandmother's warnings that this would somehow kill us both. I breastfed her until she was two years old because I am also very much against human babies drinking milk that is meant for baby cows, although Jeremy Clarkson thinks breastfeeding is "just like urination".

To answer your question, journalist man, the most rock'n'roll thing I've ever done is use instinct alone to make a little woman feel safe, articulate and empowered before releasing her into a world that tries to take those gifts away. Question everything. *Pure gangster.*

## Katherine Ryan's high five

**Shocking things that aren't shocking in *Becoming Beyoncé***

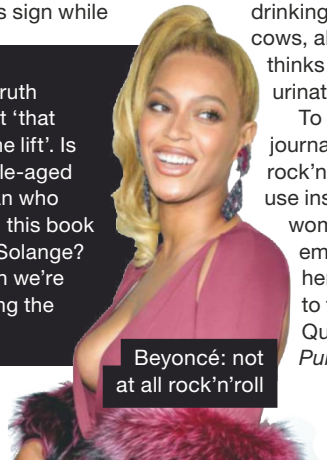
**1** Beyoncé used gaffer tape to cinch her waist. *Of course she did* and who gives a f**k? Drag acts have been doing that for years. Not a revelation.

**2** Beyoncé keeps in touch with her childhood boyfriend. Well I hope so! We can't all block and delete our exes like I do.

**3** Her marriage to Jay Z is 'on the rocks'? The only one I know of that isn't is polygamist Kody and his four wives' from US reality show *Sister Wives*.

**4** Interviews with former members of Bey's first group, Girl's Tyme. Beyoncé knew these women when they were *eight* years old! What thrilling insights these will be.

**5** The truth about 'that fight in the lift'. Is the middle-aged white man who authored this book actually Solange? No? Then we're not getting the story.



Beyoncé: not at all rock'n'roll

PHOTOS: BELLA HOWARD, GETTY, ALPHA PRESS. STYLING JEN MICHALSKI-BRAY, HAIR & MAKE-UP FIONA ELSTAGE. TOP BY FOREVER UNIQUE; SKIRT BY KATE SPADE, MADISON AVE; RINGS BY CARAT AND SWAROVSKI; BRACELET BY CARAT; EARRINGS BY LOLA & GRACE

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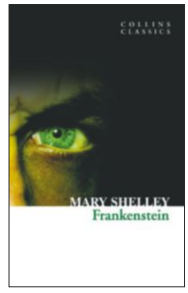


**Monster monster**
Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* will have you checking for bogeymen under your bed.
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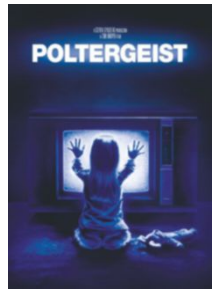


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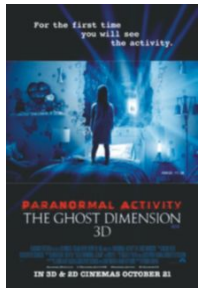


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# What's on your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

# Glasgow

## Frances McFadden
**20, barista**

Listening to:
**THE ROLLING STONES**
***Love In Vain***
"It's an excellent song. I'm a big Rolling Stones fan – it's my dad's fault!"

**Wearing:** coat from The Glasgow Vintage Company, mum's Clash T-shirt, H&M jeans, Dr Martens boots.
**Best thing about Glasgow:** "Everyone's really friendly. I love the emergence of the coffee scene in the West End too."

## Kieran Holton
**22, IT technician**

Listening to:
**PARKWAY DRIVE**
***Crushed***
"It just came on shuffle, but they are my favourite band. They'll be playing in Glasgow in February, so I'm seeing them then."

**Wearing:** River Island jacket and jeans, Superdry T-shirt, Mitchell & Ness cap, Nike trainers.
**Best thing about Glasgow:** "Everyone's always up for a chat – it's one of the best cities to be in. I love it here."

## Gail Kelly
**30, photographer/graphic designer**

Listening to:
**BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN**
***Dancing In The Dark***
"I'm trying to learn it properly so when I sing it at the top of my voice I don't sing the wrong words."

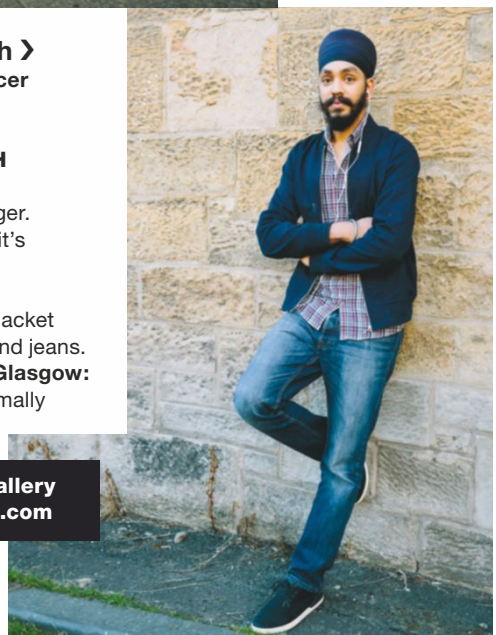
**Wearing:** Topshop shirt and T-shirt, Fat Face shorts, Clarks shoes.
**Best thing about Glasgow:** "The shopping: we have some pretty cool markets with lots of independent suppliers."

## Jasvinder Singh
**23, Marks & Spencer**

Listening to:
**DILJIT DOSANJH**
***Soorma***
"He's a Punjabi singer. It's a rap song and it's got good bass."

**Wearing:** Topman jacket and shirt, River Island jeans.
**Best thing about Glasgow:** "The nightlife – normally I go to Kushion."

**For the full gallery head to NME.com**



PHOTOS: EUAN ROBERTSON

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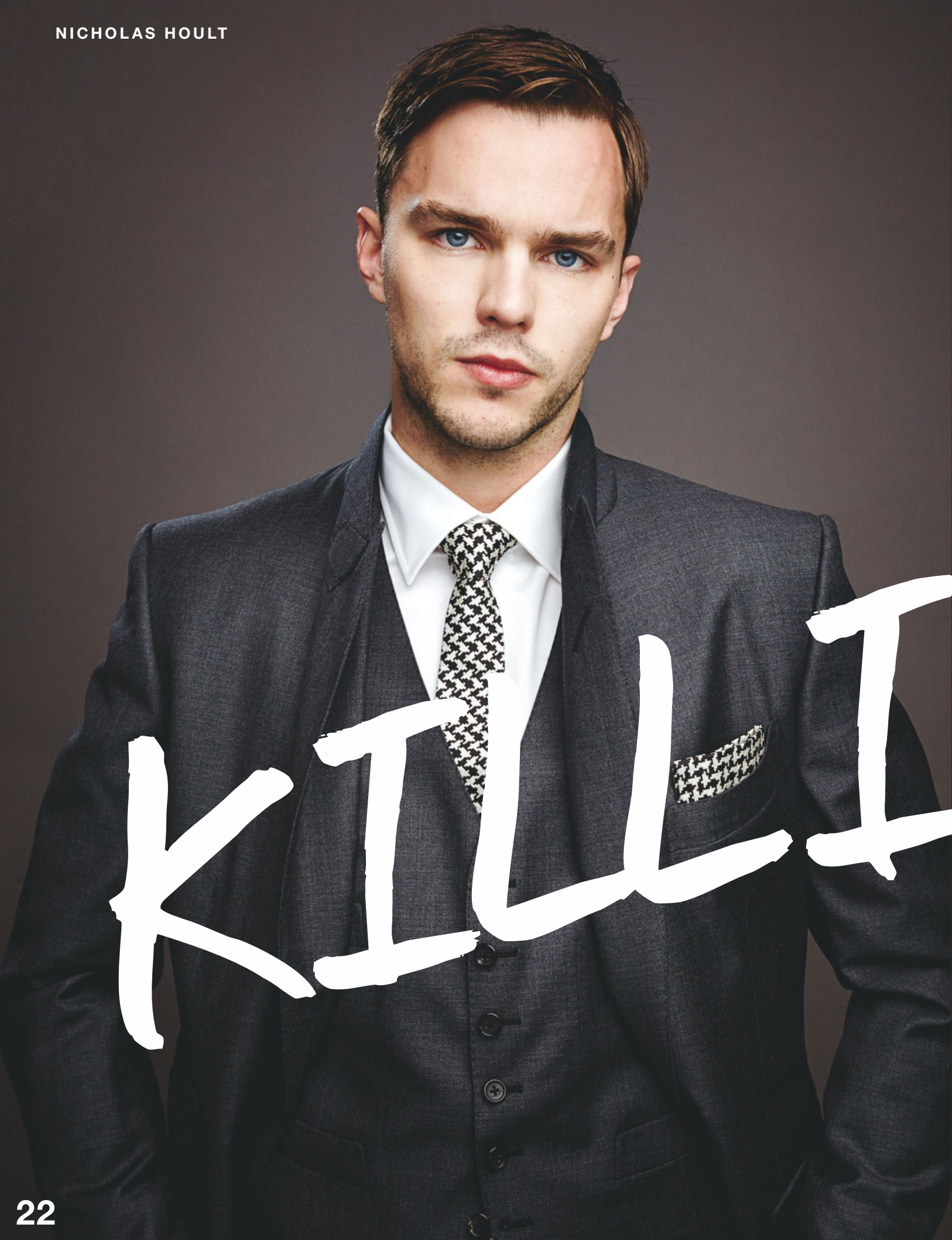

KILL

# NG IT

**Former child star Nicholas Hoult has become one of Britain's most compelling actors. Following key roles in *X-Men* and *Mad Max*, he's now ruthlessly eliminating A&R rivals in a film adaptation of '90s music biz satire *Kill Your Friends*. *NME* sent the novel's author, John Niven, to interview him**

**PHOTOGRAPHED BY** DEAN CHALKLEY

•••

John Niven

The first time I met Nicholas Hoult was in an office at Pinewood Studios, back in March 2014. It was a couple of days before shooting was due to begin on ***Kill Your Friends***, the film of my 2008 novel of the same name. My first thought was something like, "Wow, someone this tall and handsome shouldn't really be allowed to exist." You can imagine my crushing disappointment when I then discovered that in addition to being tall and handsome, Nick was also intelligent, warm, friendly and barkingly sane.

Of course these last qualities are all completely alien to Steven Stelfox, the character Nick was about to play. For those of you who haven't read the book, Stelfox is a ruthless, amoral A&R man at a major record company in London in 1997, the height of Britpop. He's a guy who will literally stop at nothing to get to the top of his profession. The more I got to know Nick the more I thought, "Wow. He's really going to have to act on this one." Thank God he did, bringing the character to life in chillingly memorable fashion.

Of course, when you work with someone (I wrote the screenplay for the film) you rarely stop to ask them too many questions. You're too busy getting on with the job. So I was pleased when *NME* asked me to sit down with Nick and find out a bit more about what he was thinking when he took on a role that has been described as "one of the most disgraceful characters in literature". We met at the Soho Hotel in Dean Street, London, where we drank Martinis, ate tiny burgers and caught up for the first time in nearly a year.

*Kill Your Friends* was John Niven's debut novel, compared by critics to Bret Easton Ellis' *American Psycho* and Irvine Welsh's *Trainspotting*. It was based on his experiences as an A&R man for London Records and Independiente in the 1990s.

**John Niven: With *Kill Your Friends*, what did you read first, the script or the novel?**
**Nicholas Hoult:** The script. Gregor [Cameron, producer] came up to me in Hyde Park a couple of years ago and just gave me a copy! I thought at first 'Uh oh, crazy guy alert.' And Owen [Harris, director] wasn't even attached then, so it didn't feel real to be honest. I was filming another movie for a year and then Owen came on board – I'd loved his ***Black Mirror*** episode – so I read the script again and *then* the book, and it was at that point that I was like "F**k. I *have* to play this guy." And, you know, that year in between made a big difference...

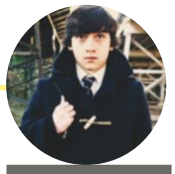
**Yeah, initially I thought you were too young to play Stelfox. I think you were 23 when you were first approached and the character was 26. But you're, what, 25 now?**
Yeah.

**And a couple of years make a big difference at your age. Also, casting someone like Craig Roberts opposite you makes a big difference to how you come over on-screen.**
Definitely. Craig's great in the film. And it's difficult, because after you read the book you start to have such definite ideas about what the characters look like, especially as I would be trying to see everything from Stelfox's perspective.

**Did you have any reservations about playing someone so blatantly and unapologetically unsympathetic?**
No. Weirdly, I kind of enjoyed being in his company. I was reading the book again just before we started shooting. I'd be walking around town and occasionally I'd have to stop myself because I'd look at someone and hear Stelfox in my head. You know, what he'd think of them, describe them or what he'd want to do to them. It would happen a lot on the Tube...

**Were there any particular moments in the script where you thought, "I cannot wait to do this"?**
Certainly anything where his veneer gets broken and he loses control for a second. The speech at the dinner where he's trying to sign The Lazies and it goes into what he *really* wants to say.

Owen Morris' *Black Mirror* episode wasn't the one where the Prime Minister sh*gs a pig, it was the one where a woman uses social media profiles to construct a clone of her dead partner.



Craig Roberts is best known for playing the lead role in Richard Ayoade's coming-of-age drama *Submarine*. In *Kill Your Friends*, he plays Stelfox's guileless A&R scout, Darren.

**That was one of the pleasures of the novel: the disparity between what he's thinking and saying in any given situation. We had to try various devices to make it work on film...**
Owen got me to watch a lot of *House Of Cards*.

**It's very frustrating as a writer, because the original draft of the script I wrote four or five years ago, in 2010 or 2011, had a lot of that confiding-to-camera stuff in it and then – you know the movie-making process, it takes so long to get anything made – by the time the film was happening *House Of Cards* and *Wolf Of Wall Street* had both been out and people just think you're ripping them off. I've got drafts dated three years before either of those films happened.**
I love all those brutally honest bits. The rhythm of the language and the creativity with saying disastrous, horrible things that are still astute and observant. That was very appealing.

**Why did you finally decide to do *Kill Your Friends*? You could have made a lot more money doing something else...**
Ah... Yeah! I could! [Laughs, then

Craig Roberts (front) as Darren in *Kill Your Friends*

GETTY, PHOTOSHOT

Fellow A&R man Trellick is played by Joseph Mawle

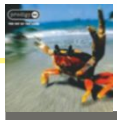
**"You don't want to watch someone you know is going to win"**

grows thoughtful] I just... I believed in it. You know? Firstly, I hadn't read anything like it. I mean, obviously you hear the *American Psycho* comparison, but I don't think it's tonally like that at all. There's certainly a lack of empathy to both characters...

**With the novel there is – very deliberately – next to no backstory in it. You get no sense of why Stelfox is like he is. Presumably as an actor you had to think about this a little?**
Owen and I talked about how Stelfox was desperately scared of becoming one of the people he most despises, which is to say a 'toler', in his words – a member of the general public. Just a nobody. We talked about how he probably came from a relatively poor upbringing and how he had no safety net underneath him, while a lot of the people around him in A&R probably come from money. Stelfox has to succeed at all costs.

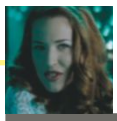
Don Simpson was the brash, coke-addicted, S&M-loving Hollywood producer of *Top Gun*, *The Rock* and *Beverly Hills Cop*. He died of a drug overdose aged 52.

**Funnily enough, one of the inspirations for Stelfox was Don Simpson. Simpson was a poor kid from Alaska who carved his way to the top in Hollywood and he was just a source of great quotes. He said something like, "You know, I see kids come into the movie business all the time. And they're smart and funny and they love movies and they like to go to lunch and stuff and I just think I AM GOING TO RUN YOU OVER WITH A F**KING TRUCK." He was someone with this extraordinarily demented ambition and focus. You should read his biography by Charles Fleming.**
It's a bit late for research now…



Featuring the enormous 'Firestarter', 'Breathe' and 'Smack My Bitch Up', The Prodigy's 'The Fat Of The Land' was one of the biggest albums of 1997, going on to sell 10m copies.

**True. Let me ask you this, do you remember much of the music in the film? Presumably you were in primary school in the period the book is set...**
In 1997? Yeah. I was seven! I think '(What's The Story) Morning Glory' by Oasis was one of the first albums I bought, a few years after it came out. I used to sneak into my brother's room and listen to his Walkman. **The Prodigy's 'The Fat Of The Land'** was a record I remember hearing like that and being all "*Wahhhhghhh!*" What else? I remember being really into **Gina G's 'Ooh Ah... Just A Little Bit'**. I was like "*F***ing tune!*" As I said, I was seven.



Gina G's 'Ooh Aah... Just A Little Bit' was our 1996 Eurovision entry, and an instant kitsch classic. It was the last British Eurovision song to top the charts.

**I guess the '90s for you must have been like looking at the 1970s for me – almost historical.**
Yes and no. The way my brain works, it all feels kind of contemporary until you get back to the 1950s or '60s. Someone pointed out to me the other day that 'Crazy In Love' is now 12 years old. I was like, "Hold up – *what*?"

**Dude, I'm ancient. I think The Strokes are kind of a new band.**
Hahahahahaha! If I'm talking to someone who's 18 or 19 and I mention a classic rap album and they don't know it, I think, 'How can you not know that record?' Then I remember they were about seven when it came out and probably not listening to too much rap.

**You're a big rap fan?**
I am, actually. I think the last gig I saw was Kendrick Lamar.

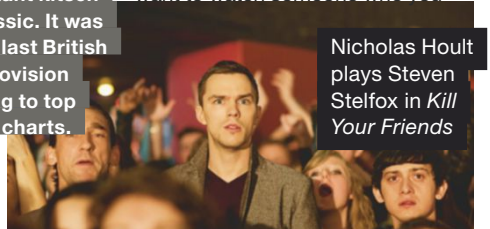
**I love that last album.**
Do you know his first album?

**Not so much.**
Dude, it's *phenomenal*.

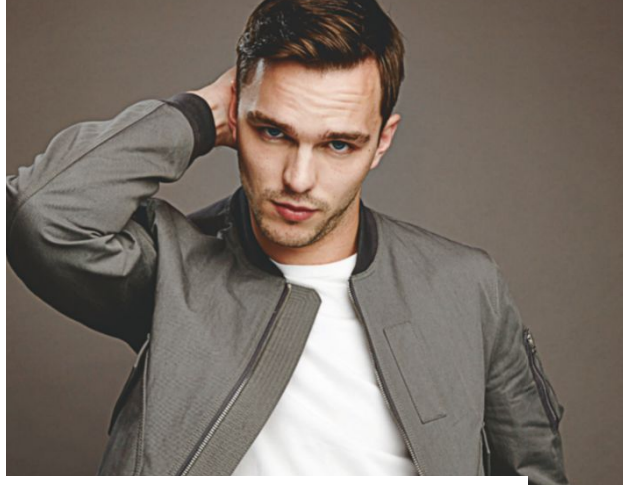
**'Bitch Don't Kill My Vibe'?**
[Eyes actually going misty] That's got a special place in my heart.

**What else musically?**
Eminem I still love. The first 'Marshall Mathers LP'. Etta James, Otis Redding, The Rolling Stones. I liked Jamie xx's last record. It's like films, isn't it? You don't say 'I only like one type of movie', do you? But then, I don't really listen to a lot of death metal, for instance.

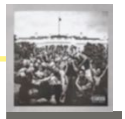
**As well as *Kill Your Friends*, you've been in a couple of *X-Men* movies. Recently we've seen Spielberg and Emma Thompson weighing in on the ubiquity of the superhero movie...**
At times I'll see superhero movies and admittedly be frustrated by them. It does feel like some are just packaging and they're not trying hard enough because they know it's a bankable formula. But I love the *X-Men* films because they have a heart to them and you have actors like Michael Fassbender who bring so much to the characters. The superheroes in that world aren't smug. You don't want to watch someone who you



Nicholas Hoult plays Steven Stelfox in *Kill Your Friends*

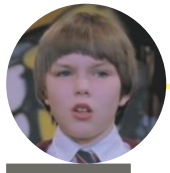


## "I was really into Gina G's 'Ooh Aah... Just A Little Bit'"



Kendrick Lamar's 'To Pimp A Butterfly' set Spotify's first-day streaming record on its release in March 2015.

Hoult played Dr Hank McCoy, AKA Beast, in 2011's *X-Men: First Class* and 2014's *X-Men: Days Of Future Past*.



Hoult was 13 when he played the cute kid in 2002's *About A Boy*. His climactic scene was an excruciating performance of 'Killing Me Softly' at his school show.

know is going to win from the start just being awesome for two hours.

**It's an interesting time for you as an actor, doing things like *X-Men* and *Kill Your Friends*...**
Yeah. Not because I'm thinking, "Oh wow! It's all happening for me!" but because I'm getting to do different, interesting things. A few years ago I'd be reading scripts like *Kill Your Friends* and thinking, "I'd love to do this," and they'd cast someone in their late 20s. Now I'm getting to do things like this and *Mad Max* and *Equals*.

**Was it fun, playing someone like Stelfox?**
It really was. Since being a kid actor I've always been aware of the pitfalls of the whole game. And the chance of failure. So I've always been very sensible, driven and careful not to let the whole thing run away from me. Because when you've been in a very successful film when you're young, you don't want that to be the highlight of your life. Also, everything feels a bit safer these days, in music and acting. So to play someone like Stelfox who embraces the darker side and just goes crazy with it was really fun.

**Speaking of *About A Boy*, do you ever get asked to recreate the *Killing Me Softly* scene at parties?**
Ah… No. But people used to sometimes sing 'Shake Your Ass' at me when I was walking down the street.

**And did you?**
Never. Never ever.

***Kill Your Friends* is in cinemas on November 6**

STYLING: ABENA OFEI. STYLING ASSISTANCE: AKUA OFEI. PREVIOUS SPREAD: GREY THREE-PIECE SUIT BY TOM FORD AT MR PORTER; WHITE SHIRT BY BRIONI AT SELFRIDGES; BLACK AND WHITE PATTERNED TIE BY MARWOOD. THIS SPREAD: KHAKI BOMBER JACKET, WHITE T-SHIRT AND BLUE DENIM JEANS ALL BY BURBERRY BRIT

# THE 10 BIGGEST ALBUMS STILL TO COME IN 2015

and why you need them in your life

# 1 GRIMES
## Art Angels

**WHO:** Alt.pop maverick, electronic innovator and style icon, Claire Boucher.

**WHAT THEY SAY:** "I'm less afraid of saying things now. On this record I don't give a f**k any more."

**TELL ME MORE:** It's been three-and-a-half years since the release of Claire Boucher's last album 'Visions'. A luscious, intricate record, it propelled the Vancouver-born producer and singer from her bedroom studio to the global stage. Evidently, Boucher has been struggling with the weight of expectation ever since – a year ago she told the world she'd actually already finished the follow-up to 'Visions', but decided to ditch the whole thing because it "sucked." She'd been rocked by the fan reaction to her standalone 2014 single 'Go', originally written for Rihanna and wrongly interpreted as evidence of a new mainstream pop direction. "It upsets a lot of my fans, and I get why it upsets them," she said. In fact, despite moving from Montreal to LA and signing with Jay Z's star-making Roc Nation label, Grimes claims she has no interest in becoming a pop star. Instead, she's holding fast to her experimental vision, but realising it on a widescreen scale. In May, she said she was employing "real instruments", and in a recent interview she spoke about the record's lyrical inspiration, saying it was "more political" than her previous output: "There's a song that's from the perspective of a butterfly in the Amazon as people are cutting down trees; there's a song that's from the perspective of angels who are polluted, so they're crying polluted tears." **Leonie Cooper**

**WHY YOU NEED IT IN YOUR LIFE:** Because pop music sounds better with a weird, arty twist.

**WHEN:** November 6

RANKIN, GETTY

## Best of the rest

**JAMIE WOON**
***'Making Time'***
**WHO:** Slick soul man from London.
**WHAT:** Anticipated second album, heavily influenced by D'Angelo.
**WHEN:** November 6

**BOOTS**
***'Aquaria'***
**WHO:** Hot-property producer for Beyoncé, Run The Jewels and FKA Twigs.
**WHAT:** Debut album of slinky but weird pop.
**WHEN:** November 13

**JONNY GREENWOOD**
***'Junun'***
**WHO:** Radiohead guitar hero.
**WHAT:** Clever-clogs world music made in India with Israeli producer Shye Ben Tzur.
**WHEN:** November 13

# 2 ADELE
## 25

**WHO:** Lesser-spotted London singer. Everybody in the world owns a copy of her last album, '21'.

**WHAT THEY SAY:** "I'm sorry it took so long, but you know, life happened."

**TELL ME MORE:** *X Factor* contestants are always warbling out sub-standard versions of her songs, so Adele's decision to premiere 'Hello', her first new music in three years, via a 30-second snippet during an ad break on the show seemed weirdly fitting. Four days later a lengthy statement appeared on her Facebook page, revealing that the follow-up to 2011's '21' is called '25'. The singer, now a mother, described it as "a make-up record" that finds her "making up with myself, for lost time, for everything I did and never did".Produced by Greg Kurstin (Lana Del Rey, Lily Allen), 'Hello' backs up her descriptions. "*Hello from the other side*", she sings over hushed piano, "*I must have called a thousand times to tell you/I'm sorry for everything that I've done*". As first singles from Adele albums go it's not exactly surprising. What the rest of album will sound like is less clear. Canadian pianist Tobias Jesso Jr admitted that he's contributed a track, so we can be sure of at least *one* other heart-wrenching piano ballad. But Damon Albarn – hired to work on five tracks he believes will be ditched – has described the record as "very middle of the road". More clues come in the shape of other rumoured collaborators: Gorillaz producer Danger Mouse, songwriting kingpin Max Martin and pop-rocker Ryan Tedder. '25' could yet emerge pumped full of pop, R&B or piano soul. But whatever it sounds like, millions of people will buy it. **Ben Homewood**

**WHY YOU NEED IT IN YOUR LIFE:** To have a new set of teary karaoke standards.

**WHEN:** November 20

# 3 JUSTIN BIEBER

## Purpose

**WHO:** Teen idol who's deftly shifting his rep as pop's Bart Simpson.

**WHAT THEY SAY:** "I'm passionate about being better and growing, this is gonna be an awesome chapter in my life."

**TELL ME MORE:** For a 30-day Instagram countdown to the release of his new album's first single 'What Do You Mean?', Justin Bieber enlisted 77 famous people including Ben Stiller, Britney Spears, Chris Martin, Miley Cyrus and Steven Tyler to hold up signs saying 'What Do You Mean?'. The song itself is as impressive as the 21-year-old singer's contacts. It sees him continue the shift from bubblegum teen-pop to ass-shaking EDM that started with 'Where Are Ü Now' in June. Produced by Rick Rubin, 'Purpose' also features "creative input" from Kanye West and writing credits for Big Sean, Ed Sheeran and Skrillex, who helped Bieber write current single 'Sorry'. The Instagram countdown for that one featured a clip of Skrillex playing acoustic guitar as Bieber sang, "*Is it too late now to say sorry/'Cos I'm missing more than just your body*". While that may not sound particularly deep, the main inspiration behind the album does. For Bieber, 'Purpose' means a new start. "I want to live like Jesus," he told *Complex* in September, explaining that his new understanding of faith and Jesus as "a healer" drove the album. Whatever you think of him, that's a pretty bold statement. **Ben Homewood**

**WHY YOU NEED IT IN YOUR LIFE:** Because we're all Beliebers now.

**WHEN:** November 13

## Best of the rest

**KING GIZZARD & THE LIZARD WIZARD**
***'Paper Mache Dream Balloon'***
**WHO:** Freaky Australian heirs to Tame Impala's throne.
**WHAT:** Thoroughly weird flute-based new record.
**WHEN:** November 13

**FRANK OCEAN**
**WHO:** Smooth-voiced Odd Future associate.
**WHAT:** Hugely-anticipated third album will come with a copy of his magazine, *Boys Don't Cry*.
**WHEN:** tbc

**CAGE THE ELEPHANT**
***'Tell Me I'm Pretty'***
**WHO:** Kentucky indie scrappers.
**WHAT:** A meaty turn towards the blues.
**WHEN:** December 18

# 4 LIL WAYNE

## Tha Carter V

**WHO:** Pint-sized rapper and lover of cough syrup drink 'sizzurp'.

**WHAT THEY SAY:** "'Tha Carter V' is about growth, flat-out. I still say what I want to say – it just sounds better and makes more sense. That all comes with growth and maturity."

**TELL ME MORE:** Wayne's reputation for long-delayed albums has been cemented by the fifth instalment of 'Tha Carter' series, the first of which was released in 2004. 'Tha Carter V' was apparently finished and due for release last October, but has been caught up in legal wrangles ever since. Wayne tweeted in December that "Cash Money Rec[ords] refuse to release it". He also claimed the company – with whom he signed aged 11 – hadn't paid him for recent work and filed a $51m lawsuit against them. He has since dropped the case, prompting speculation that the matter could be settled and the album may soon be on the way. It's a testament to the popularity of the 'Tha Carter' albums (the last one shifted almost a million copies in its first week) that two stopgap 2015 releases, 'Sorry 4 The Wait 2' and 'The Free Weezy Album', have only increased fans' appetites for 'Tha Carter V'. In a recent interview with *Montreality*, collaborator and producer Mannie Fresh promised it's vintage Weezy: "We kind of went back to that original Cash Money feel, what you grew up on, the Mannie Fresh sound that you knew Wayne and Mannie did. Chemistry. It's more of the original, that first Carter, that feel." **Jordan Bassett**

**WHY YOU NEED IT IN YOUR LIFE:** When Weezy's on his game few rappers can touch him.

**WHEN:** December 9

DANIEL TOPETE, POONEH GHANA, XPOSUREPHOTOS.COM

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# SOPHIE
## Product

**WHO:** Highbrow architect of lowbrow hyper-pop.

**WHAT THEY SAY:** "Pop music should be about who can make the loudest, brightest thing."

**TELL ME MORE:** Alongside equally shadowy producer AG Cook, Sophie is one of the key figures of London-based collective PC Music, who've attracted both acclaim and derision for their carefully honed aesthetic: a migraine-inducing mixture of '90s Europop, dissonant electronica, Windows 95 graphics and wilful inauthenticity. But Sophie releases have always balanced bleeding-edge experimentalism with a genuine love for, and understanding of, straightforward pop. His 2013 debut single 'Bipp' was pure plasticky joy, while his latest – 'Just Like We Never Said Goodbye' – brilliantly showcases his ability to create tracks that sound arch yet sincere, utterly shallow yet oddly moving. Debut album 'Product' is a collection of his singles so far, including the giddy 'Lemonade' and the banging 'MSMSMSM'. In keeping with the PC Music crew's passion for eccentric merchandising, 'Product' is available on CD and vinyl, but also as Sophie-logo sunglasses, platform shoes or a silicon double dildo. How can a dildo be a music format? Well, it comes with a download code for the album, that's how. Look, it's PC Music, alright? Just go with it. **Joe Madden**

**WHY YOU NEED IT IN YOUR LIFE:** For a pure hit of hyper-pop pleasure – and to wind up 'real music' bores.

**WHEN:** November 27

GETTY

# KURT COBAIN
## Montage Of Heck: The Home Recordings

**WHO:** One of the most iconic musicians of all time. No longer alive.

**WHAT THEY SAY:** "It furthers not just our understanding of Kurt's process, but represents yet another angle, another side of Kurt – an artistic outlet that he was not necessarily able to work with in the context of a three-piece band." – Brett Morgen

**TELL ME MORE:** The soundtrack to director Brett Morgen's brilliant *Montage Of Heck* documentary (released earlier this year) features unreleased sketches, demos and home recordings from the Cobain archives. "It's just Kurt, and you're going to hear him do things you never expected to come out of him," says Morgen of the album. And while you might not end up uncovering Kurt's secret hip-hop past or fondness for a Europop banger, the tracks on 'Montage Of Heck: The Home Recordings' will certainly show a softer, more intimate side to the guttural 'Nevermind' howler. Even if you haven't watched the film (sidenote: rectify that immediately), then you'll have already heard parts of this release. Stripped-down versions of 'Incesticide' track 'Been A Son' and 'In Utero''s 'Frances Farmer Will Have Her Revenge On Seattle' will be familiar to fans, while some of the previously unreleased material has recently been unveiled online. A cover of The Beatles' doe-eyed 'And I Love Her' is in there, as is 'Sappy' – a scratchy, melancholy acoustic demo given a hi-fi reworking for the first time. The deluxe version has a massive 31 tracks of Kurt-at-home to dig into. When Kurt committed suicide in 1994 aged 27, he was cut off in his prime, so this is about the closest you're ever going to get to a new Cobain release. And that'll do us just fine. **Lisa Wright**

**WHY YOU NEED IT IN YOUR LIFE:** Because there'll never be another Nirvana album.

**WHEN:** November 13

# UNCUT

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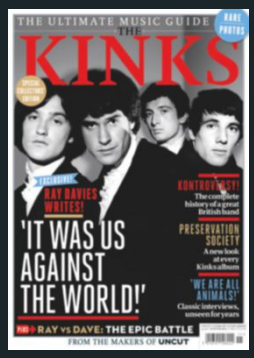


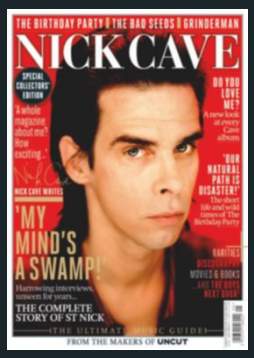

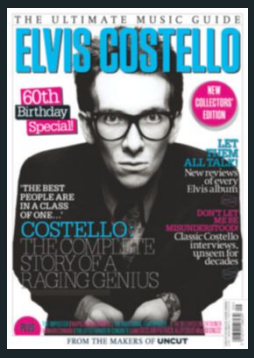

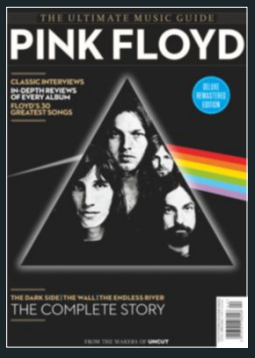

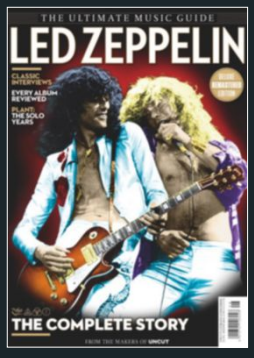

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# ELLIE GOULDING
## Delirium

**WHO:** Impish singer gunning for global pop glory.

**WHAT THEY SAY:** "It's a very electronic album. I think it sounds pretty epic."

**TELL ME MORE:** With 'Delirium', Ellie Goulding is fully embracing pop. Apart from the avian flutter of her vocals, the 28-year-old's bombastic new material is far removed from the stringy synths of 2010 debut 'Lights'. The beats promise to be even bigger than those on 2012's 'Halcyon', which featured production from Calvin Harris. The transformation started with 2013's 'Burn' – written with Ryan Tedder, frontman of pop-rockers OneRepublic – which became Goulding's first UK Number One. It was a sign of things to come. This year, she claimed the top spot again with the vaguely S&M-themed 'Love Me Like You Do', a contribution to the *50 Shades Of Grey* soundtrack. It was the first time she'd collaborated with prolific Swedish hitmaker Max Martin, who's worked with everyone from Backstreet Boys to Taylor Swift. Martin is on six of 'Delerium''s 16 tracks, and the signs are that the quirks of Goulding's past will be replaced by thick pop gloop. Second single 'On My Mind' is an aggressive earworm; 'Something In The Way You Move' is a bass-heavy, synth-led ballad in the vein of Taylor Swift's 'Style'. Actually, 'Delirium' could be Goulding's answer to Swift's '1989' – a confident stride into the pop superstar camp. **Larry Bartleet**

**WHY YOU NEED IT IN YOUR LIFE:** Because you're probably getting sick of '1989' by now.

**WHEN:** November 6

# RIHANNA
## Anti

**WHO:** Devil-may-care Barbadian superstar.

**WHAT THEY SAY:** "I wanted an album that I could perform in 15 years. I want to make songs that are timeless."

**TELL ME MORE:** In the first seven years of Rihanna's career, she released an average of one album every year. It's now been three years since 2012's 'Unapologetic', so 'Anti' is bound to be at least three times better than anything she's done before – that's just maths. So far we've had three official singles, in the form of low-key megastar summit 'FourFiveSeconds' (with Kanye and Macca), debate-sparking political anthem 'American Oxygen', and thinkpiece fodder 'Bitch Better Have My Money'. The latter was notable for its video – quite possibly the most controversial of 2015 – which was released in July and saw Rihanna kidnapping and torturing her accountant's girlfriend. It was based on real-life experiences, when alleged poor investment advice from her accountant Peter Gounis in 2009 caused her to lose much of her $7m fortune. The internet decided the Tarantino-violent video was about feminism, but speaking to *NME* in September, Rihanna insisted, "This was not a woman empowerment video. I was making a piece of art." And by now, she's entitled to. The album's title is confirmation that Rihanna isn't making something that will please everyone. It's unlikely that she's deliberately aiming to alienate her fanbase, but it's clear she doesn't really care what people say about her work. Take 'James Joint', for example, the interlude she leaked on April 20 AKA 'world weed day' – an idyllic minute of stonerish philosophising. That should dispel any notions of her being in the same poppy, kid-friendly league as Taylor Swift. In Rihanna's own words: "She's a role model, I'm not." **Larry Bartleet**

**WHY YOU NEED IT IN YOUR LIFE:** It's by far the most badass thing on this list.

**WHEN:** Later this year – or so Rihanna says.

## Best of the rest

**SUNN O)))**
***'Kanon'***
**WHO:** Seattle drone legends.
**WHAT:** A thunderous album inspired by the Buddhist god of mercy.
**WHEN:** December 4

**LIL BUB**
***'Science & Magic'***
**WHO:** The Internet's most famous cat, now making Run The Jewels-approved electro.
**WHAT:** Trendy disco tunes just in time for Christmas party season.
**WHEN:** December 4

**SIA**
***'This Is*** Acting'
**WHO:** Former Zero 7 singer, now one of pop's hippest names. Has written for Beyoncé and Rihanna.
**WHAT:** An album of slow-burning bangers.
**WHEN:** tbc

REX, PETER BESTE, MIA KIRBY

# 9 JENNYLEE
## Right On!

**WHO:** Vibey Warpaint bassist with a penchant for multi-coloured hair.

**WHAT THEY SAY:** "I went in deep within myself, my music, my expression and boy oh boy, I went *through* it. Such a gorgeous journey, and I'm so proud of what we did."

**TELL ME MORE:** LA quartet Warpaint are known for their undulating guitar interplay, intertwining vocals and general four-headed sonic spell-weaving. First out of the pack with a solo album is bassist Jenny Lee Lindberg, using the monikerJennylee. It doesn't mean the band are splitting – in fact drummer Stella Mozgawa also plays on 'Right On!', alongside Dan Elkan of Broken Bells and producer Norm Block – but it does mean that the band's most natural star is now hogging the limelight. Recorded in hipster-y Silverlake, Los Angeles, 'Right On!' isn't a million miles away from the dusky, nighttime atmospherics of Lee's main band. Repeated, hypnotic guitars, delicate reverb and soft, intimate vocals are still the order of the day, but Jennylee the solo artist is a more melancholy, stripped-back character than her role as Warpaint's most effervescent presence might suggest. First single 'Never' reveals a previously hidden love of Joy Division, while the emotive 'He Fresh' gently works its way under your skin. Released on Rough Trade just before Christmas, 'Right On!' is more of a record for blustery winter walks than getting merry round the log fire, but when your Great Uncle Dave starts cracking out his Bruce Forsyth impression yet again, it might provide the perfect respite. **Lisa Wright**

**WHY YOU NEED IT IN YOUR LIFE:** Instant hippy cred. No soggy rollies or joss sticks required.

**WHEN:** December 11

# 10 KANYE WEST
## Swish

**WHO:** Hip-hop heavyweight and inventor of the leather jogging pant.

**WHAT THEY SAY:** "This album is just embracing the music, embracing joy and just being a service to the people."

**TELL ME MORE:** The most eagerly anticipated album in rap, 'Swish' will be Kanye West's seventh LP, following 2013's stark, Rick Rubin-assisted 'Yeezus'. Formerly known as 'So Help Me God', West tweeted in May to let fans know that the record was being renamed. The Glasto headliner has been dropping clues – or red herrings – about the direction of the new album throughout 2015. Could 'Swish' really make room for both Paul McCartney (who collaborated on this year's 'Only One') *and* the grime stars (including Skepta, Stormzy and Novelist) who appeared with Kanye when he performed 'All Day' at this year's Brit Awards? The 38-year-old has also been teasing new music in the most stylish way possible, during both of 2015's New York Fashion Weeks. In February, he previewed 'Wolves' (featuring pop balladeer Sia and Chicago rapper Vic Mensa) on the catwalk at his Adidas Originals x Kanye West show. Then, in September, he unveiled the house-influenced 'Fade' on the runway for his latest collection. Speaking to *Vanity Fair*, he explained: "That's like a sonic landscape, a two-year painting. That song I played has been a year-and-a-half in the making and it may be still a year from being complete. But it was to let people get a glimpse at the painting." **Leonie Cooper**

**WHY YOU NEED IT IN YOUR LIFE:** It'll undoubtedly be the cultural event of the year.

**WHEN:** Only one person knows for sure, and his name is Kanye West.

# "I'M QUICK-WITTED AND CLEVER AND KIND OF AN A**HOLE"

**With her blue hair and songs about a dystopian society, 'New Americana' singer Halsey is a modern breed of pop star. Jordan Bassett meets 2015's most exciting overnight sensation**

Halsey performs live at the Austin City Limits music festival, October 4, 2015

**Halsey is sick of** being asked about her bipolar disorder. "People wanna pigeonhole you," she says. "When the album came out there were articles saying, 'Halsey is gonna be the next big thing,' but they never said why. It was centred around: 'Let's talk about Halsey because she's bipolar, let's talk about Halsey because she's bisexual, let's talk about Halsey because she's mixed-race.'"

Her voice is becoming louder and harder, making the dodgy phone line crackle. "So I just worked my a** off and wrote an album, but no, you wanna talk about these political things."

For the record, the 21-year-old's music is unique, arresting and darkly compulsive in its own right. Halsey's debut album, 'Badlands', released in August, was inspired by the post-apocalyptic landscapes depicted in films such as *Blade Runner* and *Gummo* (the latter an early work from filmmaker Harmony Korine, who directed *Kids*). It's a collection of sophisticated electro-pop songs that form a narrative set in a "booming city surrounded by a desert wasteland". The video for its latest single, the inescapably catchy 'New Americana' ("*We are the New Americana/Raised on Biggie and Nirvana*"), has amassed over three million YouTube views since the end of September, the song rivalling Lorde's 'Royals' as a definitive millennial missive.

Listening to 'Badlands'' lyrics, which veer from youthful angst ('New Americana') to young love ('Roman Holiday'), you'd be forgiven for missing that conceptual arc. Yet the production (courtesy of Lido, the Norwegian producer with whom she was in a relationship while making the album) buzzes with the menace of a dystopian city.

**Originally from** Washington, New Jersey, the teenage Ashley Frangipane soon gravitated to New York. While there she got her "sex, drugs, loss and existential confusion phase" out of the way early, living in a bohemian loft off Halsey Street in Brooklyn, hence her pop-star name (Halsey is also an anagram of Ashley).

Latterly she moved to LA, where she spent a year consumed by the making of 'Badlands': "I'd moved into an apartment with no furniture, just pieces of paper on the walls. I painted one wall with chalkboard paint so I could write on it. I looked like a serial killer. My parents were having issues, friends from home were sick or had died and my little brother was going through a tough time. Everyone needed me, but I was stuck in 'Badlands'."

Given those sacrifices, it's understandable that she refuses to be defined as an artist by one aspect of her personality. It's also why Halsey is sick of being asked about Taylor Swift. Three years ago, she uploaded 'The Haylor Song' to YouTube. A parody of Swift's 'I Knew You Were Trouble', it mocked her relationship with Harry Styles, about whom the original song was reportedly written. Halsey's version went viral but she insists it didn't kickstart her career.

> **"I am desperate to be indefinable"**

"I made that video in 2012," she says, "and there was not another word about me in the press until 2014, but it keeps getting brought up. It's the same mentality as people wanting to talk about being bipolar or being bisexual; everyone loves talking about Taylor Swift. I made multiple parody videos at that age; I'm quick-witted, clever and kind of an a**hole, and it was how I handled that when I was 16."

## Halsey calls

herself "a product of the internet", having amassed a huge online following. She dismisses her record label's "archaic" marketing methods, whereby exposure is drip-fed by country. "It's like, 'F**k you, you have no idea what you're doing. I'm not Led Zeppelin, I don't need to tour a country to get support there. The internet is a global narrative.'" Indeed, when Halsey offered to dye fans' hair in London during her first UK tour in September, she expected "about 100 people" to attend. Instead, "Closer to 600 people showed up and I hadn't received any radio play in the UK."

Her influences are also broader than you might expect of a pop star. "Yeah, I was a fan of One Direction when I was 16, but I was also a fan of Bring Me The Horizon and hardcore bands. I used to work at a punk venue in Pennsylvania because I wanted to be near music."

The hardcore punk fan who hangs out with 5 Seconds Of Summer, the pop star who writes sci-fi concept albums… Halsey is hard to pin down, and that's how she likes it. "Being bisexual, being bipolar, being biracial – it's been used to define me, but I am desperate to be indefinable." NME

## WHEN HALSEY WENT VIRAL

**'THE HAYLOR SONG'**
Back in 2012, Halsey's Taylor Swift parody – made under real name, Ashley Frangipane – was the toast of One Direction forums.

**'GHOST'**
In June 2015, Halsey remade the video for her song 'Ghost', replacing the male love interest with a girl. It's now been watched more than 7.5m times.

**SXSW 2015**
Confirming her status as 2015's next big thing, Halsey was the most tweeted-about artist at this year's SXSW festival, ahead of Miley Cyrus.

## HALSEY'S SOOTHERS

**Her three key influences**

**HARDCORE PUNK**
"I was attracted to the sense of community. People swing fists in a crowd but if anyone's hurt, people stop to help them."

***THE MATRIX***
"My stage clothes are influenced by *The Matrix*. I have a black leather bodysuit with a hood. That's when I feel the best."

**HARMONY KORINE'S FILMS**
"He creates worlds where there's something unsettling that makes it feel like a parallel universe."

ZUMAPRESS.COM, GETTY

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# RADAR

MUSIC, FILM, TV, GAMES AND MORE – THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

# Best NEW tracks

## And when to drop them

### Best for being moody on night buses

**THE NATIONAL**
***Roman Candle***
Debuted at a recent Hollywood charity event, this new song is as brooding, pretty and emotional as we've come to expect from the New York intellectuals.

### Best for watching winter sunrises

**MERCHANDISE**
***Red Sun (feat. Dum Dum Girls)***
Dum Dum Girls' Dee Dee lends sultry vocals to the Tampa Bay band's latest crooner, while Carson Cox sighs and mutters over eerie, sci-fi synth lines.

### Best for pre-gig booze-ups

**VITAMIN**
***To Believe***
Sprightly, soaring M83-meets-Friendly Fires electro-indie from the Leeds newcomers. If it doesn't have you dancing in your chair, you're already dead.

HYENA

### Best for air guitar freak-outs

**HYENA**
***Forget My Name***
The hotly-tipped Telford four-piece bring their best grinding riffs forward on their latest heavy-hitter.

### Best for greeting the dawn naked

**JUSTIN BIEBER**
***Sorry***
The former teen star continues his voyage into credibility with another Skrillex team-up that's both tender and absolutely banging.

### Best for coastal road trips

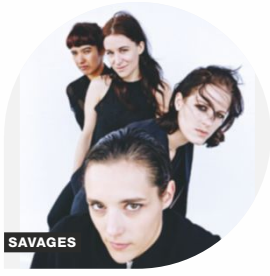
**KANYE WEST**
***When I See It***
Yeezy co-opts the beat he made for The Weeknd's 'Tell Your Friends' and drops languid, auto-tuned bars about "*riding down the 405*" over the top.

### Best for Halloween raves

**GRIMES**
***Flesh Without Blood***
Claire Boucher goes full-on pop with this introduction to forthcoming LP 'Art Angels', a hybrid of 'Oblivion''s oddity and the sparky sounds of Carly Rae Jepsen.

### Best for emotional reunions

**ADELE**
***Hello***
The first track from new album '25' finds Adele trying to reconnect with an ex in typically tearjerking fashion.


SAVAGES

### Best for making up mid-row

**SAVAGES**
***The Answer***
The London-based quartet return in crunching form as frontwoman Jehnny Beth declares "*Love is the answer*". Impossible to ignore.

### Best for gatecrashing parties

**CHARLI XCX**
***Vroom Vroom***
She's cited PC Music as an inspiration on her new album, so it's no wonder Charli's hooked up with Sophie on this energetic, inventive party-starter.

**For more new music, go to NME.com**

CHARLI XCX

JENN FIVE, COLIN LAYNE, SHAYNE LAVERDIERE

# Soundtrack of her life

**Amy Winehouse's troubled life was brilliantly documented in this year's *Amy*. Here are the songs from its most powerful scenes**

## Back To Black

*A capella/Album Medley*

**MOMENT:** The seamless transition from the isolated vocal track – nonchalantly recorded in a makeshift booth with producer Mark Ronson looking on – to the finished version of 'Back To Black' provides a fascinating glimpse of Amy at work in the studio. In the context of the film, it's also the moment when all the anguish and heartbreak that went into her second album begins to reap artistic dividends.

## Body And Soul

**MOMENT:** Winehouse's duet with Tony Bennett on this 1930s jazz standard, subsequently released on 'Lioness: Hidden Treasures' and Bennett's own 'Duets II' album, was one of the last things she recorded. Working with him was a lifelong ambition of Amy's, and the sight of him calming her nerves in the studio is one of the film's lighter moments. Bennett told the filmmakers that Winehouse was "a natural, a true jazz artist".

## Love Is A Losing Game

*Live at the Mercury Awards, 2007*

**MOMENT:** Klaxons' 'Myths Of The Near Future' took the prize, but all eyes at the 2007 Mercury Awards were on Amy, making a surprise return after being admitted to hospital for a drug overdose the previous month. With Blake Fielder-Civil and her family watching from the crowd, she looked ill-at-ease under the spotlight, but her acoustic performance of 'Love Is A Losing Game' was the most memorable thing about the ceremony.

## Stronger Than Me

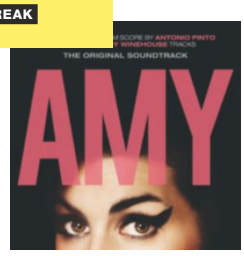
**MOMENT:** Amy's relationships with the men in her life is one of the film's defining themes. This song – written about ex-boyfriend Chris Taylor – explores her dissatisfaction in that relationship. The film sheds light on this period, showing the couple lolling on a sofa, him joking that she's "like a powerful man".

# The review

**AMY, THE ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK**

★★★☆☆

SOUL DEMOS HEARTBREAK




IN DEATH, AMY Winehouse's music has generally been treated with a respect and restraint that, as director Asif Kapadia's brilliant, gut-wrenching documentary made plain, was too often missing from her own life. Granted, there was 2011's posthumously released 'Lioness: Hidden Treasures', but that – if you believe her label – looks like being her last studio release of any real substance. The remarkable success of Kapadia's film might justify the release of this soundtrack album, but it's light on new or little-heard music. There's a 'downtempo' version of 'Some Unholy War' and an acoustic demo of Nas duet 'Like Smoke'. The latter is scarcely 80 seconds long, but it's elevated by the effortlessness of her voice. The rest of the album is largely comprised of live recordings or originals that anyone with even a passing interest will own already. Brazilian composer Antonio Pinto's score is also included, and the brooding atmospheres of 'Kidnapping Amy' and 'Cynthia' serve as a reminder of the story that lies between the lines. If you've seen the film and are determined to buy the album, there's just enough here to make it worth your while. **Barry Nicolson**

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

**Amy was once invited to join a 72-strong group of Austrian singing monks called the Cistercian Monks Of Stift Heiligenkreuz.**

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

# Bleeding material

**South London hip-hop vet Roots Manuva goes deep on an emotionally weighty sixth album**

**ROOTS MANUVA**
**Bleeds**
★★★★☆
HIP-HOP DEMONS TRAP

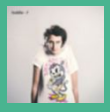
EVER SINCE ROOTS Manuva's first foray into UK hip-hop back in the mid-'90s, he's been celebrated for what he *isn't* as much as what he is. When the 43-year-old (real name Rodney Smith) released 2001's lauded second album 'Run Come Save Me', its inspired mash of patois, homespun whimsy and dub rhythms could hardly have been less like Diddy, Ja Rule or the other American rap giants surrounding him. Smith has certainly battled personal demons (there were allegations his management of the time attempted to have him sectioned a decade or so ago) and sixth album 'Bleeds' is often weighty, but sounds consistently alive, and inimitably Roots Manuva.

Nevertheless, these 10 songs explore fresh avenues. Produced by Four Tet, 'Facety 2:11' sounds like something MIA might have rejected back in the day for being too clanky (no bad thing). Former Major Lazer producer Switch's new alias With You turns a baby's grizzling into an unsettling rhythmic device on the trap-influenced 'Crying'.

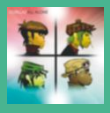
Elsewhere though, 'Bleeds' is disarmingly lush. 'Hard Bastards' might be an exasperated lament for a British underclass cast adrift, but the strings that kick it off sure sound posh. 'Don't Breathe Out' ("*The poor don't relax/The poor do they soul clap... turn Jesus black*") toys with an unusually commercial, '60s soul motif. Most lavish of all is 'I Know Your Face', which, powered by cellos and cascading harpsichords, betrays barely a trace of Roots' chirpy frivolity. To borrow one of his old album titles, this is awfully deep. **Noel Gardner**

## Collab-o-roots

**Roots' past is littered with collaborations, such as these three**



**TODDLA T 'WATCH ME DANCE'** *(2011)*
Sheffield's bass-heavy maestro loves his vocal collabs more than most, and bussed Roots in for a vocal on this banging single.



**GORILLAZ 'ALL ALONE'** *(2005)*
'Demon Days', the second album by Damon Albarn's cartoon muse, enlisted Roots on vocals for this number along with Martina Topley-Bird.

**LEFTFIELD 'DUSTED'** *(1999)*
On his first big-name guest spot, Roots' effervescent toasting opened up 'Rhythm And Stealth', the second album by influential UK dance faves Leftfield.

## Best track

### I Know Your Face

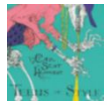
The album's most luxurious song sees Roots match lyrical heft with orchestral accompaniment.

## FOR FANS OF

## Also out this week

**EL VY** ***Return To The Moon***
★★★★☆
Fans of The National's indie gloom might be surprised by singer Matt Berninger's new project, but his irony-laced lyrics are a witty counterpoint to collaborator Brent Knopf's textured art-pop.

**GUY GARVEY** ***Courting The Squall***
★★★☆☆
Elbow frontman Guy Garvey's debut solo album oozes a tentative, careworn tenderness and delves into jazz, funk and soul.



**CAR SEAT HEADREST** ***Teens Of Style***
★★★★☆
After 11 promising Bandcamp albums, Will Toledo releases his debut proper via indie giant Matador. Its murky mix of punk and indie more than makes up for the daft name.

**MARTIN COURTNEY** ***Many Moons***
★★★★☆
The solo debut from the driving force behind New Jersey indie swooners Real Estate doesn't deviate far from his day job's breezy jangle, but it's very good, so who cares?

**YOUNGHUSBAND** ***Dissolver***
★★★☆☆
The shoegazers made their second album with Robert Hampson of Loop. His influence shows: this is lush, expansive and far out.

**Read the full reviews of these and many more albums on NME.com**

ALEX LAKE, SHAMIL TANNA, DEAN CHALKLEY

Daniel Craig, making his fourth appearance as James Bond

# Bond bombshell

**The 24th Bond harks back to the old days with a wink, but is let down by loose storytelling**

**SPECTRE**
**12A *Daniel Craig, Christoph Waltz, Léa Seydoux***

★★★☆☆

GADGETS | VILLAINS | PUNCH-UPS

WHERE DO YOU GO AFTER the most successful Bond in history? Try to be bigger, meaner, slicker? Not quite for Sam Mendes. Following *Skyfall*, the director opts for... grander. *Spectre* is, mostly, operatic, in scale, emotion and frequently in choral soundtrack. The thing with opera, though, is that while its most powerful moments can shake an audience in their seats, it does have a propensity to go on a bit.

Almost a decade after *Casino Royale* stripped 007 back to his barest essentials, *Spectre* is the gradual layering back on of the old garb. The opening, a ravishing sequence set amid the Day Of The Dead in Mexico, is pure Craig era: brutal, practical, casually witty. Then as we progress it harks back to the old days with, probably deliberate, echoes of Connery, Moore, Brosnan, even Lazenby. In come gadgets, disposable girls, villains with plans as diabolical as they are logistically unlikely. By the end we're in a very 2015 world with a very 1995 Bond.

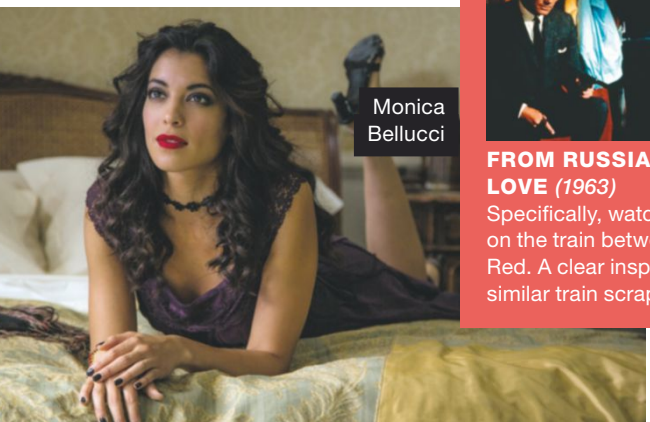
Bond's entire division is under threat of downsizing, with an odious creep (Andrew Scott) brought in to unify Britain's security agencies. Simultaneously, 007 is tracking the mysterious Spectre syndicate, which appears to be behind every bad thing that's ever happened – to the world and Bond. It gets very complicated. Like anything at the age of 63, it's a bit baggy round the middle.

Mendes directs like a man determined to enjoy his last hours with the Bond toys. As much as there are slow periods, there are many joyful flourishes. He's the best director to ever work on Bond.

How much you enjoy this may depend on how you feel about Bond in general. If you miss the old days, with the world in elaborate peril and everything done with a big wink, this is a solid example of that. If you preferred the lower stakes but tighter storytelling of the new era, *Spectre* may feel like your dad's Bond. **Olly Richards**

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

**This is the first Bond in which the entire principal cast was born after the 1962 release of *Dr No*, the first in the series.**



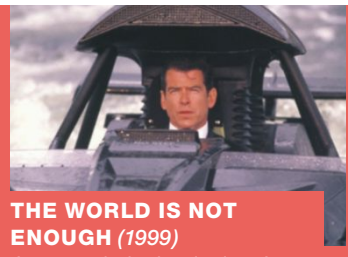
Monica Bellucci

## 007 101

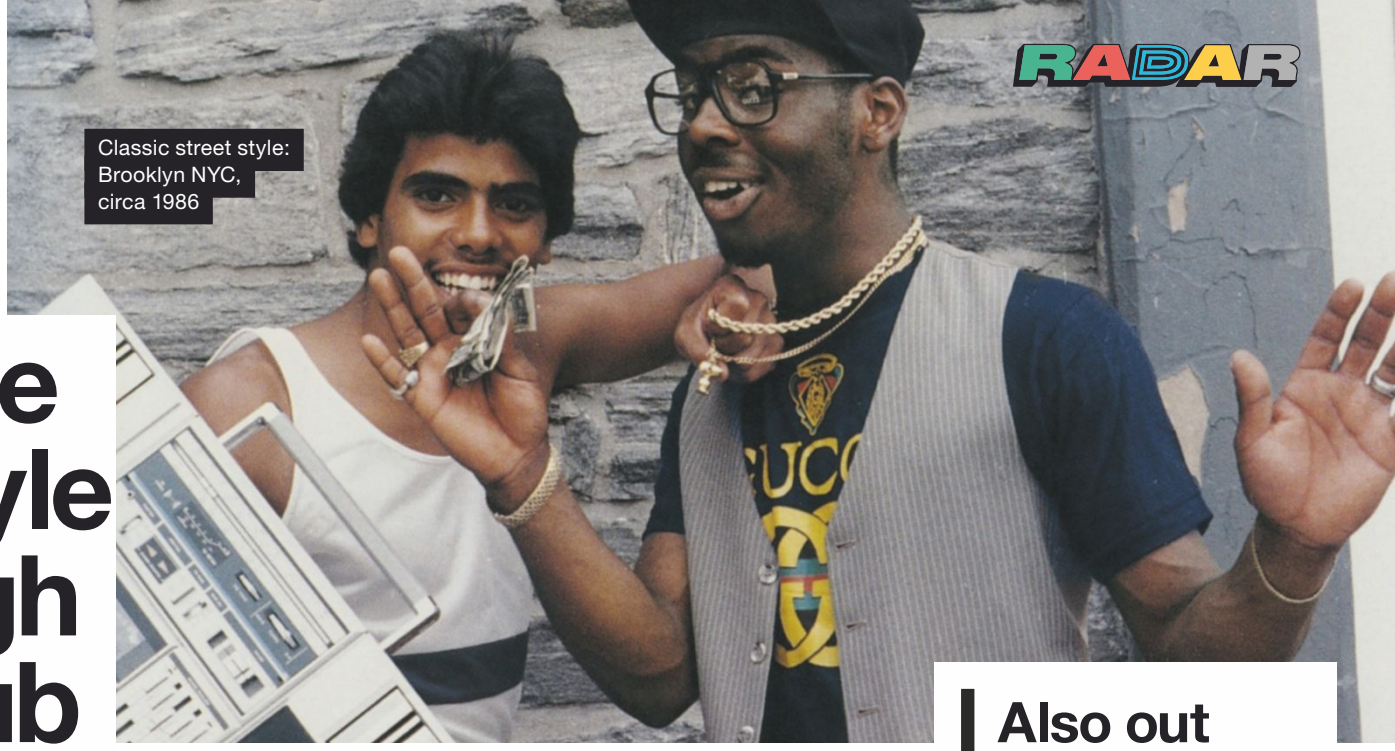
**Bond films you should re-watch before seeing *Spectre***

**FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE *(1963)***
Specifically, watch the fist fight on the train between Bond and Red. A clear inspiration for a similar train scrap in *Spectre*.

**ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE *(1969)***
George Lazenby only got one turn as Bond, but it's a good one. *Spectre* harks back to *OHMSS*'s time in the mountains.



**THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH *(1999)***
Just watch the beginning. In *Spectre*, there's a sequence that strongly echoes the chase down the Thames.



Classic street style: Brooklyn NYC, circa 1986

# The style high club

**Slick documentary explains why hip-hop will never go out of style, with help from Kanye, Nas and more**

**FRESH DRESSED**
**15** ***Kanye West, Nas, Pharrell Williams***
★★★★☆
DOCUMENTARY | HIP-HOP | STYLE

HIP-HOP ICONS ARE ABOUT image as well as music. Think Run-DMC and their unlaced Adidas; 2Pac's bandana; Pharrell Williams in his Vivienne Westwood hat. This new film from veteran hip-hop historian Sacha Jenkins sets itself a weighty task: to tell the story of hip-hop fashion, to explain it in its wider social contexts and to assess where it stands today.

It's a difficult job, and Jenkins' scope and ambition are emphasised from the start, with NY rap veteran Nas sketching a history of ghetto fabulosity back to African tribal chiefs and Georgian paintings of British kings. Kanye West, Sean 'Diddy' Combs, Jay Z's former manager and business partner Damon Dash and Pharrell riff on hip-hop style and their own adventures in the fashion industry, while academics and designers weigh in with choice anecdotes.

The narrative is broadly chronological, tracing hip-hop fashion from the post-disco satin-and-flares look of late '70s rappers through the streetwear of the '90s to today's mash-up of aspirational styles and high fashion.

There are some fantastic and little-known stories told along the way. There's an interview with Bronx tailor Dapper Dan, who made hugely popular creations covered in high fashion logos in the '80s, until he was shut down for copyright infringement only for the same brands to muscle in on the streetwear market he'd helped create. Founder of New York label Fubu Daymond John reveals how LL Cool J gave the brand free publicity by wearing one of their caps in a Gap TV ad.

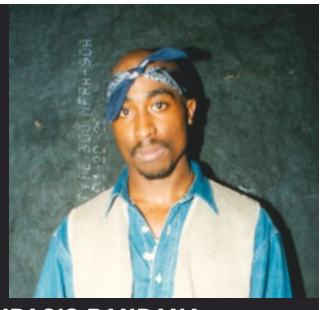
Today, Jenkins appears to be saying, the wheel looks like it's turned full circle. Luxury brands have co-opted street style, while rappers' clothing lines fall out of favour when their music does. The establishment has reasserted itself, but hip-hop's sense of style – always fluid – has never diminished. **Angus Batey**

## Pop ya collar

**Director Sacha Jenkins on essential hip-hop fashion**

**RUN-DMC'S ADIDAS**
The New York trio wore their 'shell-toe' Adidas without laces. Their 1986 song 'My Adidas' led to a $1m deal with the brand.
**Sacha Jenkins says:** "There is a trick where you wear two pairs of socks to keep them from falling off."

**FLAVOR FLAV'S CLOCK**
Public Enemy legend Flav used to wear a PE-teacher style digital stopwatch round his neck, but swapped to massive clocks.
**Sacha Jenkins says:** "Iconic. It tied in with the phrase 'Do you know what time it is?', which was big at the time."



**TUPAC'S BANDANA**
Tupac was rarely seen without a bandana knotted around his head. So iconic was the look, YouTube is littered with video guides on how to tie yours *exactly* as he did.
**Sacha Jenkins says:** "I actually associate these with gangs more than fashion."

REX, GETTY

## Also out this week

**BLACK SOULS**
**15** ***Marco Leonardi, Peppino Mazzotta, Fabrizio Ferracane***
★★★☆☆
A big hit on the film festival circuit last year, this Italian gangster drama finally gets a UK release. Multiple generations of a family being ripped apart by crime may sound a very familiar plot, but this presents a compelling new take.

**DO I SOUND GAY?**
**15** ***David Thorpe, David Sedaris, George Takei***
★★★☆☆
A semi-autobiographical documentary by journalist David Thorpe, this looks at the idea that there's such a thing as gay voice, and if there is, why?

**For more reviews visit NME.com**

The Kappa Kappa Tau girls in *Scream Queens*

# Coming to a scream near you

**It mocks student culture and sends up slasher flicks. Here's how *Scream Queens* puts the 'camp' in 'campus'**

**SCREAM QUEENS**
***Monday, 10pm, E4***
COMEDY HORROR SCREAMING

As creator of *American Horror Story*, *Glee* and *Nip/Tuck*, Ryan Murphy has been responsible for some of the craziest moments on television. Who else could persuade double Oscar-winner Jessica Lange to cover Lana Del Rey's 'Gods & Monsters' in a hammy German accent while a two-faced demon hunts her (as she did on *American Horror Story: Freak Show*)? But *Scream Queens*, his latest project, may be his most outlandish yet. Set in the fictional Wallace University in America and combining horror and comedy, it's shlock of the highest order.

## FOR FANS OF

## It's *Scream* meets *Mean Girls*

The 15-part series revels in teen slasher tropes and satirises youth culture, technology and the social hierarchy of America's university system. Emma Roberts (niece of Julia) plays Chanel Oberlin, a rich, vicious queen bee brimming with privilege who presides over Kappa Kappa Tau, an exclusive clique freshers pledge themselves to. She butts heads with new dean Cathy Munsch (horror veteran Jamie Lee Curtis) who forces Kappa to accept anybody who wishes to join. Oh, and there's a mystery killer in a red devil costume.

## The death sequences are inventive

An early one farcically skewers millennials' relationship with tech by having the killer and victim communicate solely by SMS – despite being in the same room. As she's brutally hacked at, she texts, "Wait! Please stop!" and rather than escaping, pauses to tweet: "The Red Devil is killing me. He stabbed me." With a star-studded cast, they're not afraid of bumping off a big name or two either.

## It stars an original scream queen

Jamie Lee Curtis – who battled babysitter-bludgeoning Michael Myers in 1978's *Halloween* – displays admirable comic timing as a disillusioned feminist who now smokes doobies and blackmails failing students into having sex with her. The 56-year-old has proved game for anything: one episode features a shot-by-shot remake of her mother Janet Leigh's famous *Psycho* shower scene.

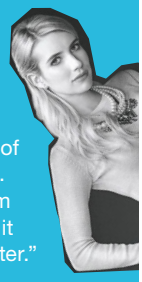
**Gary Ryan**

*Scream Queens'* murderous Red Devil

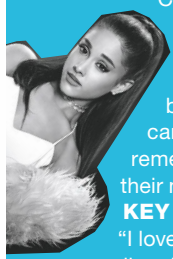
## Scream Queens: a who's who

**The lowdown on the key characters**

**WHO: CATHY MUNSCH**
***Played by Jamie Lee Curtis***
A disillusioned feminist, Munsch is the imperious head of Wallace University.
**KEY QUOTE:** "I'm going to barf on your face unless you get out of here."



**WHO: CHANEL OBERLIN**
***Played by Emma Roberts***
Vicious President of Kappa Kappa Tau.
**KEY QUOTE:** "I'm rich and pretty so it doesn't really matter."



**WHO: CHANEL NO.2**
***Played by Ariana Grande***
Chanel's minions are all given numbers because she can't be bothered remembering their names.
**KEY QUOTE:** "I love a creepy college!"

**WHO: GRACE GARDNER**
***Played by Skyler Samuels***
Joins KKT because she wants to feel closer to her dead mother, who was a member.
**KEY QUOTE:** "The Chanels have started eating cotton balls."

# Scare your pants off this Halloween

**Horror festival *FrightFest* is unleashing six terrifying new on-demand films this weekend. Festival director Paul McEvoy picks apart their grizzliest moments...**

## Aaaaaaaah!

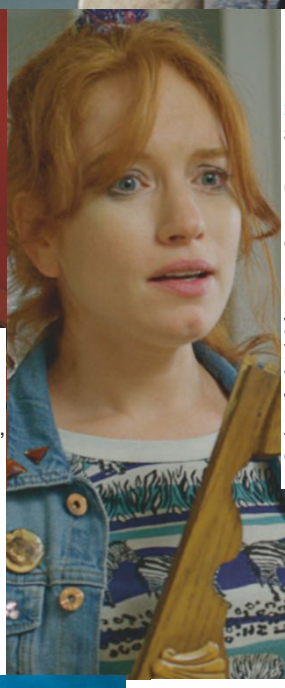
**2015**

**Starring:** Steve Oram, Noel Fielding, Julian Barratt, Julian Rhind-Tutt

**Paul says:** "Monkey business in suburbia in the near future."

**Moment that will live on in your nightmares:** "The hairy balls on Ryan's head."

**Worth it for:** "The dialogue is all in chimpanzee!"



## Night Of The Living Deb

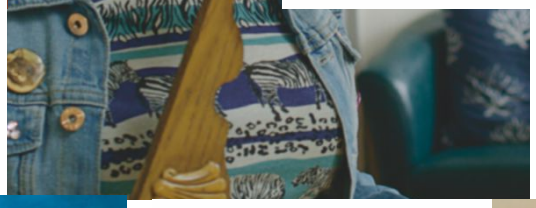
**2015**

**Starring:** Maria Thayer, Michael Cassidy, Ray Wise, Chris Marquette, Julie Brister

**Paul says:** "A one-night stand during a zombie apocalypse becomes a fight for survival."

**Moment that will live on in your nightmares:** "Realising your family are worse than the walking dead."

**Worth it for:** "It's a Zomromcom with heart that you don't have to rip out!"



## AfterDeath

**2015**

**Starring:** Miranda Raison, Sam Keeley, Daniella Kertesz, Elarica Gallacher, Lorna Nickson Brown

**Paul says:** "Five people wake up in a twisted netherworld of their own delusion."

**Moment that will live on in your nightmares:** "The exploding beach."

**Worth it for:** "It's chock-full of bright new UK talent."

## Estranged

**2015**

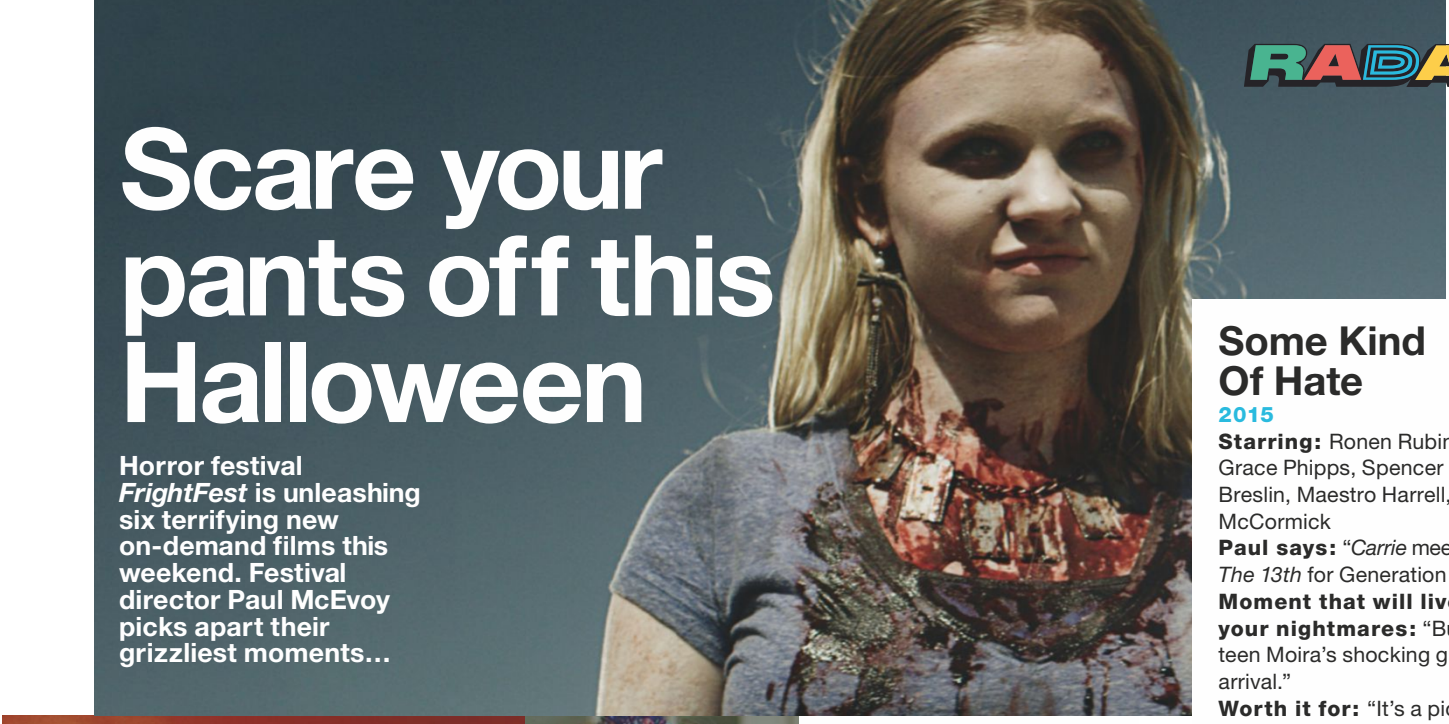
**Starring:** James Cosmo, Amy Manson, Nora-Jane Noone, James Lance, Craig Conway

**Paul says:** "An amnesiac girl learns the dark truth about her weird family."

**Moment that will live on in your nightmares:** "The unexplained disappearance of a loved one."

**Worth it for:** "It's *Downton Abbey: The Horror Movie*."

**ALL THESE FILMS ARE AVAILABLE HERE: iTunes, Amazon Instant Video, Googleplay, blinkbox, Virgin Movies, Sky Store, Volta, wuaki.tv, Microsoft, thehorrorshow.tv**



## Some Kind Of Hate

**2015**

**Starring:** Ronen Rubinstein, Grace Phipps, Spencer Breslin, Maestro Harrell, Sierra McCormick

**Paul says:** "*Carrie* meets *Friday The 13th* for Generation Z."

**Moment that will live on in your nightmares:** "Bullied teen Moira's shocking ghostly arrival."

**Worth it for:** "It's a pioneering feminist slasher movie."

## The Sand

**2015**

**Starring:** Mitchel Musso, Dean Geyer, Nikki Leigh, Brooke Butler

**Paul says:** "A creature causes bloody mayhem at a beach party."

**Moment that will live on in your nightmares:** "The gory demise of a man stuck in a barrel."

**Worth it for:** "You'll think about it every time you go sunbathing."

# The gun show

**The freaky shooting franchise gets a vigorous, jet-propelled boost**

**HALO 5: GUARDIANS**
***Xbox One***

★★★★☆

ALIENS MONSTERS SHOOTING

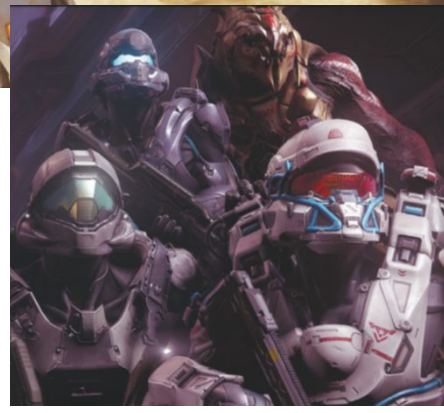
THOUGH IT'S NOW 14 YEARS old, the 65 million-selling *Halo* franchise has no intention of getting dark and sulky. In fact, the first-person shooter's fifth instalment *Guardians* is slick, charming and all grown up.

The year is 2558, and our kaleidoscopic thrill ride kicks off with a skydive into what's possibly the sleekest, most exhilarating gaming action sequence of 2015. But beard-stroking mystery noses in when the scene's four 'Spartan' super-soldiers – led by the no-nonsense Locke – are tasked with hunting down the series' even-less-nonsense protagonist, the Master Chief.

This *Halo* campaign is the first built exclusively for online multi-player action, and the option of kicking prehistoric alien ass alongside three mates is definitely one worth taking. New climbing mechanics make light work of the game's scale, which is much larger than previous *Halo*s. Your route through lines of hulking monsters can be a bruising jet-propelled mêlée, a lofty, tactical series of snipes or anything between, thanks to the vast selection of alien weapons technology.

The landscapes, too, are immensely varied – you ski down snow-blanketed mountains, crawl around eerie space stations, fly through ancient alien structures – with each encounter more challenging than the last.

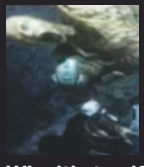
This variety makes *Guardians* zip along nicely. As the game progresses, its narrative occasionally gets mired in extensive corridors of stodgy, trigger-busting action, but that's mostly negligible, because at its best *Guardians* is a dynamic and rejuvenated addition to the *Halo* franchise – and an absolute blast to play. **Larry Bartleet**



**For more games reviews and previews go to NME.com**

## Halo's baddest baddies
**...and how they compare**

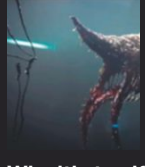
### THE FLOOD



Speed ●●●●●●○○○○
Strength ●●●●●●●●○○
Intelligence ○○○○○○○○○○

**Why it's terrifying:** This parasitic zombie creature grows by consuming other lifeforms.
**First appearance:** *Halo: Combat Evolved* (2001)

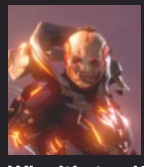
### THE GRAVEMIND



Speed ●●○○○○○○○○
Strength ●●○○○○○○○○
Intelligence ●●●●●●●●●●

**Why it's terrifying:** Developed by the Flood to act as its consciousness, forming evil plans while you laugh at its ridiculousness.
**First appearance:** *Halo 2* (2004)

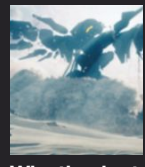
### THE DIDACT



Speed ●●●●●●●●○○
Strength ●●●●●●●●○○
Intelligence ●●●●●●●●●●

**Why it's terrifying:** The supremely intelligent survivor of the Forerunner species, the Didact has turned living beings into a robot army.
**First appearance:** *Halo 4* (2012)

### THE GUARDIANS



Speed ●●●●●●●●●●
Strength ●●●●●●●●●●
Intelligence ○○○○○○○○○○

**Why they're terrifying:** These huge, bird-like machines are capable of subjugating entire solar systems.
**First appearance:** *Halo 5: Guardians* (2015)

# Under the RADAR

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

"Happy songs about clubs. That's not me"

# Låpsley

**Liverpool newcomer whose stark, confessional ballads have caught Adele's ear**

Nineteen-year-old Holly Fletcher, aka Låpsley (it's her middle name) knows that the cold winter months are best for her stark, bare-boned ballads. She released debut EP 'Understudy' in January and a full-length album will follow in early 2016. "It's a good time for me," she says of New Year. "Everyone's dead emo and hungover."

'Dead emo' is a good way to describe Låpsley's music, but think more sad songs and teary introspection than My Chemical Romance done up like Black Parade corpses. Songs such as new single 'Hurt Me' use heartbreak as a starting point. "My whole career will be about sad things," she jokes. "Happy songs about nightclubs and shots. That's not me."

Confessional songwriting can have its pitfalls though. "Sometimes I worry I've said too much. But it's easier to write about things that are fresh in your mind." It also makes her a solitary soul, producing her own material and finding that writing sessions with other songwriters only made her more determined to go it alone: "Collaborating on lyrics has never worked for me."

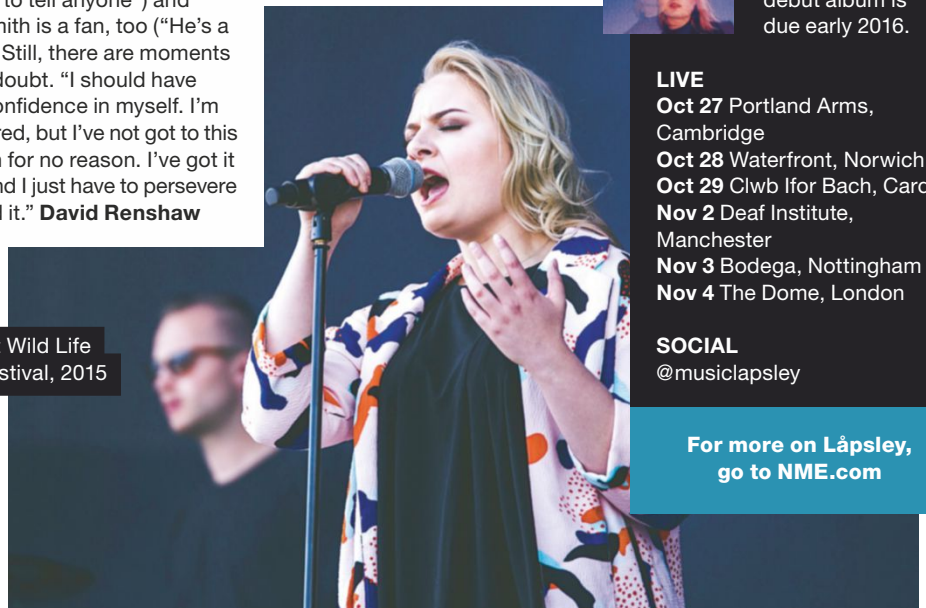
It's no surprise to discover that Låpsley has found favour among similar peddlers of pop woe. Adele came to an early gig ("I couldn't see her, it was dark, but I got told not to tell anyone") and Sam Smith is a fan, too ("He's a babe"). Still, there are moments of self-doubt. "I should have more confidence in myself. I'm still scared, but I've not got to this position for no reason. I've got it in me and I just have to persevere and find it." **David Renshaw**

Holly Fletcher aka Låpsley

## FOR FANS OF

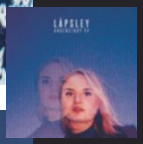
## STRANGE BUT TRUE

**Låpsley was a talented sailor while at school. "I raced in national competitions. Two-man boats. It's sick," she says.**



At Wild Life festival, 2015

## Details



**ALBUM**
The 'Understudy' EP is out now. Her debut album is due early 2016.

**LIVE**
**Oct 27** Portland Arms, Cambridge
**Oct 28** Waterfront, Norwich
**Oct 29** Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff
**Nov 2** Deaf Institute, Manchester
**Nov 3** Bodega, Nottingham
**Nov 4** The Dome, London

**SOCIAL**
@musiclapsley

**For more on Låpsley, go to NME.com**

SOPHIE HAMIS-TAYLOR, EMMA VIOLA LILJA

# live

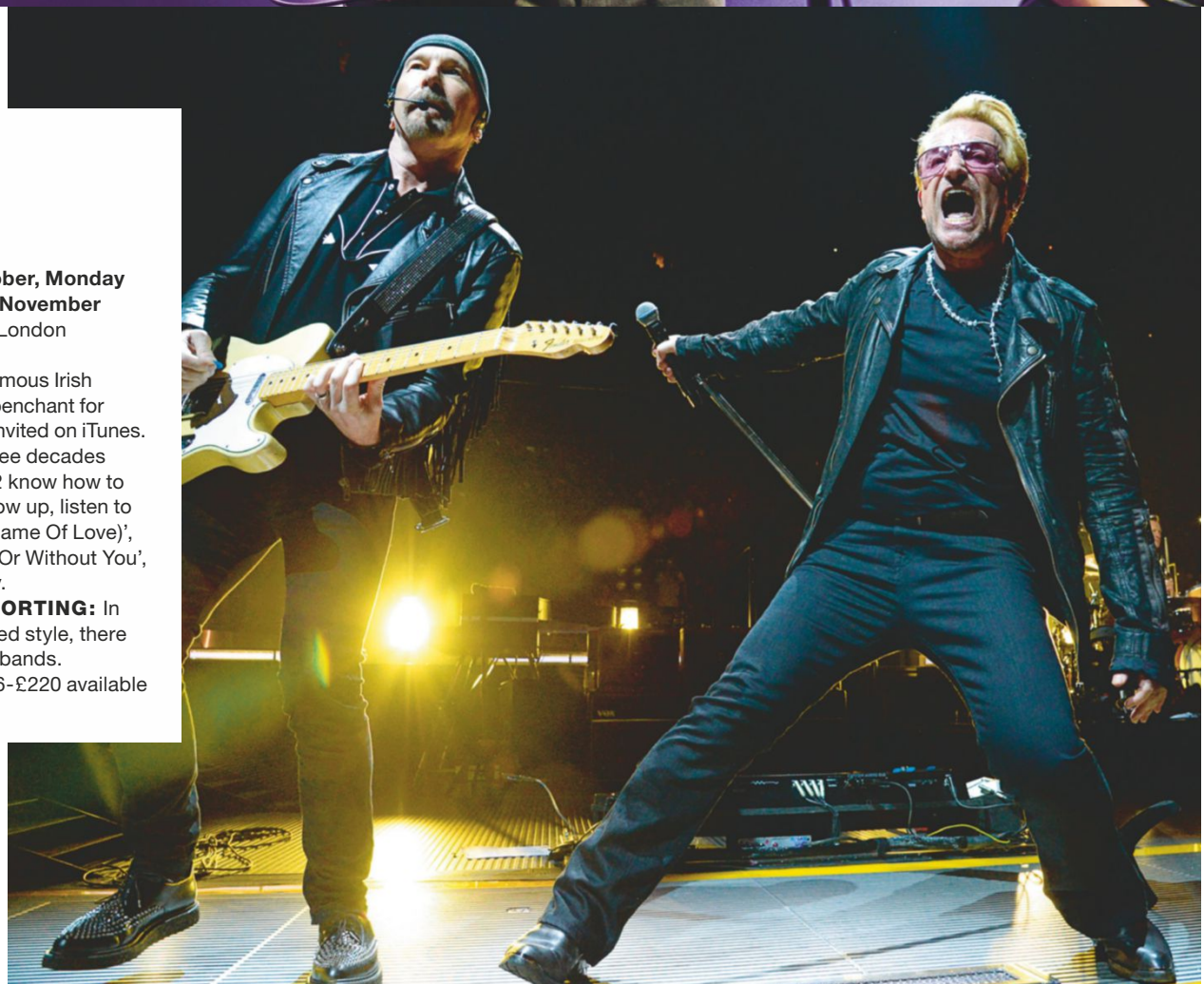
**THE 10 MOST IMPORTANT GIGS THIS WEEK**

## 1

### Foals

**Tuesday 3** Hippodrome, Kingston Upon Thames
**Thursday 5** Rock City, Nottingham

**WHO:** Recent *NME* cover stars and maybe, just maybe, the best live band in the entire country.
**WHY:** They've announced a mammoth arena tour for next year in support of recent album 'What Went Down', so these intimate (by their standards) shows will be their smallest and sweatiest for a while.
**WHO'S SUPPORTING:** Gritty London trio Real Lies, who are The Streets crossed with Happy Mondays crossed with New Order and Pet Shop Boys.
**TICKETS:** Sold out, but available to purchase from secondary ticketing sites from £50



## 2

### U2

**Friday 30 October, Monday 2 & Tuesday 3 November**
The O2 Arena, London

**WHO:** Mega-famous Irish rockers with a penchant for showing up uninvited on iTunes.
**WHY:** After three decades in the game, U2 know how to bring it live. Show up, listen to 'Pride (In The Name Of Love)', 'Vertigo', 'With Or Without You', go home happy.
**WHO'S SUPPORTING:** In true, self-assured style, there are no support bands.
**TICKETS:** £36-£220 available from axs.com

# 3

## Run The Jewels

**Friday 30** Warehouse Project, Manchester

**WHO:** Hip-hop duo El-P and Killer Mike whose two albums – 'Run The Jewels' and 'Run The Jewels II' – are full of political ire but don't forget how to party.

**WHY:** They're playing part of a massive night at the Warehouse Project, so Skepta, Toddla T and many more will all be about.
**WHO'S SUPPORTING:** All of the above, plus Goldie, Shy FX, Oneman.
**TICKETS:** Sold out, but available to purchase from secondary ticketing sites from £55

# 4

## Patti Smith

**Friday 30 & Saturday 31**
Roundhouse, London

**WHO:** New York punk legend who brought the Dalai Lama out during her Glastonbury set this year for a little sing-along.
**WHY:** Patti will be performing her seminal 1975 debut 'Horses' in full – regularly, and rightly, voted one of the greatest records of all time.
**WHO'S SUPPORTING:** Patti needs no support (and hasn't booked any).
**TICKETS:** £38.50 available from songkick.com

# 5

## Bring Me The Horizon

**Saturday 31 Guildhall,**
Southampton

**WHO:** Hard-rocking hard nuts who were second on the bill to Metallica at festivals this year.
**WHY:** This is the band's only warm-up show before their headline tour in November.
**WHO'S SUPPORTING:** tbc
**TICKETS:** Sold out, but available from secondary ticketing sites from £55.55

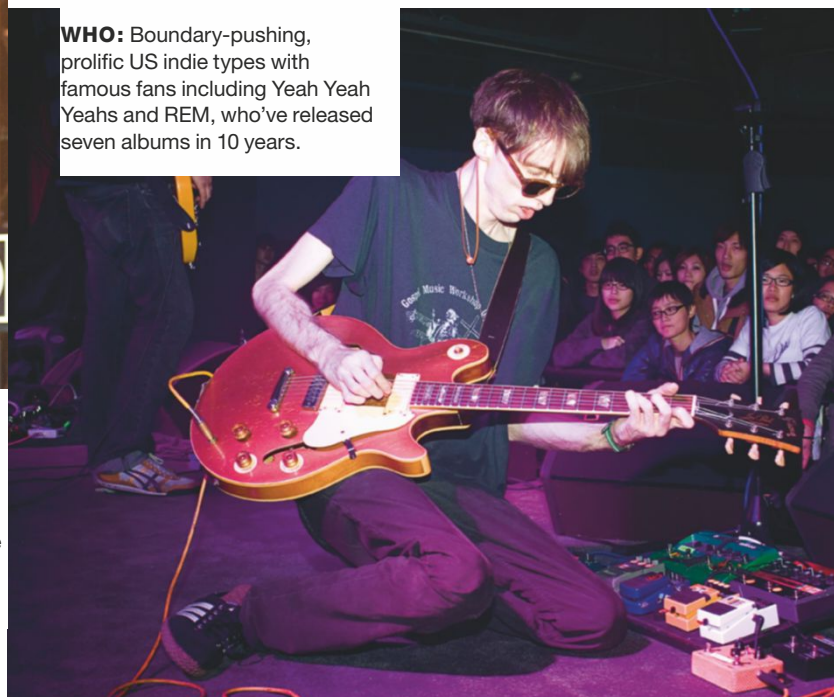
# 6

## Deerhunter

**Friday 30** All Saints Church, Hove
**Saturday 31** Camp & Furnace, Liverpool
**Tuesday 3** SWG3, Glasgow
**Wednesday 4** Brudenell Social Club, Leeds

**WHO:** Boundary-pushing, prolific US indie types with famous fans including Yeah Yeah Yeahs and REM, who've released seven albums in 10 years.

**WHY:** Frontman Bradford Cox is an eccentric, intense entertainer. New album, 'Fading Frontier', is their best to date.
**WHO'S SUPPORTING:** Cox will earn his keep by opening proceedings with his solo side-project, Atlas Sound.
**TICKETS:** Some dates sold out, most available on seetickets.com from £16.50



# 7

## Eagles Of Death Metal

**Saturday 31** LMUSU, Leeds
**Sunday 1** UEA, Norwich
**Monday 2** O2 Academy, Bristol
**Thursday 4** Engine Rooms, Southampton
**Thursday 5** O2 Forum, London

**WHO:** Hip-swivelling saucepot duo comprised of Queens Of The Stone Age frontman Josh Homme and his pornstar-dating, fully ordained minister pal Jesse Hughes.
**WHY:** There are few that party harder than EODM: their current album's called 'Zipper Down', for God's sake.
**WHO'S SUPPORTING:** Madagascan blues rock duo White Miles and London quartet Feverist.
**TICKETS:** £20.35-£55

# 9

## METZ

**Friday 30** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
**Saturday 31** Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
**Sunday 1** Scala, London
**Tuesday 3** The Fleece, Bristol
**Wednesday 4** Sound Control, Manchester
**Thursday 5** Stereo, Glasgow

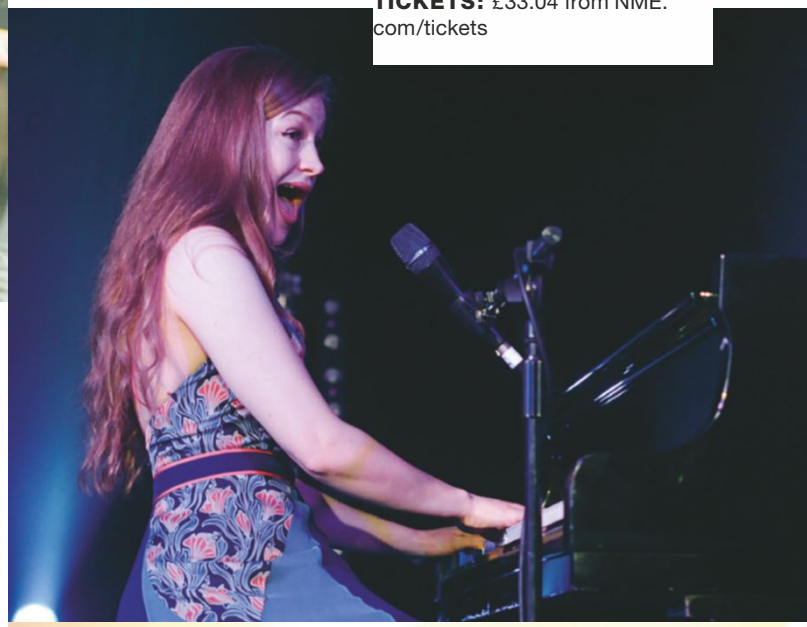
**WHO:** Extremely noisy Toronto lot, back with second album 'II'.
**WHY:** Fond of a circle pit or three, shows are big slabs of sweaty fun.
**WHO'S SUPPORTING:** Heavy post-punk troupe Protomartyr and London boys Crows.
**TICKETS:** Sold out, but check secondary ticketing sites

# 8

## Joanna Newsom

**Saturday 31** Albert Hall, Manchester
**Sunday 1** Dome, Brighton
**Monday 2** Colston Hall, Bristol

**WHO:** Revered harp-playing folk experimentalist.
**WHY:** Newsom's just released her first album in five years (this month's 'Divers'), and this'll be the first time you could get to hear it live.
**WHO'S SUPPORTING:** To be announced soon
**TICKETS:** £33.04 from NME.com/tickets



# 10

## Wiley

**Friday 30** Aviary Club, Shrewsbury (7.30pm show for Under-18s, 11.30pm show for Over-18s)

**WHO:** Rolex-wearing godfather of grime, who cancelled a Glastonbury show because he "didn't want to leave his comfort zone". What a joker.
**WHY:** He'll almost certainly turn up to this one, plus he could well debut some new material following 2014's 'Snakes And Ladders'.
**WHO'S SUPPORTING:** Still to be announced
**TICKETS:** £7.70-£25.30 from seetickets.com

**For tour news and live reviews go to NME.com**

# Best of the rest

**Vant** play various venues, **Oct 30-Nov 5**

### 2ManyDJs
**Sat 31** Fort Regent Leisure Centre, Jersey

### Beach House
**Fri 30 & Sat 31** O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London

### Belle and Sebastian
**Sun 1** Alhambra Theatre, Dunfermline
**Mon 2** SECC, Glasgow

### Best Coast
**Fri 30** Kazimier, Liverpool

### Bill Ryder-Jones
**Fri 30** Central Library, St Helens

### Blackalicious
**Fri 30** Sound Control, Manchester
**Sat 31** Electric Circus, Edinburgh
**Mon 2** Stereo, Glasgow
**Tue 3** O2 Academy, Oxford
**Wed 4** Thekla, Bristol
**Thu 5** Electric Ballroom, London

### Black Honey
**Thu 5** The Hope & Ruin, Brighton

### Bob Dylan
**Fri 30** Guildhall, Southampton

### Catfish & The Bottlemen
**Sat 31** Music Hall, Aberdeen
**Sun 1** Corn Exchange, Edinburgh
**Tue 3 & Wed 4** O2 Apollo, Manchester

### The Cribs
**Fri 30** Pyramid Centre, Portsmouth

### Death Cab For Cutie
**Mon 2** O2 Academy, Glasgow
**Tue 3** Academy, Manchester
**Wed 4** O2 Academy Brixton, London
**Thu 5** O2 Academy, Birmingham

### Everything Everything
**Thu 5** QUBSU, Belfast

### Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls
**Thu 5** Venue Cymru, Llandudno

### Fraser A Gorman
**Fri 30** Broadcast, Glasgow

### Girl Band
**Tue 3** Patterns, Brighton
**Wed 4** Soup Kitchen, Manchester
**Thu 5** Nation Of Shopkeepers, Leeds

### Half Moon Run
**Fri 30** Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
**Sat 31** Oran Mor, Glasgow
**Sun 1** Rescue Rooms, Nottingham

### Happy Mondays
**Thu 5** Guildhall, Southampton

### Hooton Tennis Club
**Fri 30** Soup Kitchen, Manchester
**Sat 31** Glad Café, Glasgow
**Sun 1** Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
**Mon 2** Duchess, York
**Tue 3** Adelphi, Hull
**Wed 4** Harley, Sheffield

READER'S PICK

**Chris**, *28, from Stockport @CTizzle27*

### Death Cab For Cutie
**Tue 3** Academy, Manchester
**"It's been yonks since they visited, and nine years since I last saw them!"**

### Ibeyi
**Mon 2** Concorde 2, Brighton
**Tue 3** Koko, London
**Wed 4** Trinity, Bristol

### Imagine Dragons
**Wed 4 & Thu 5** O2 Arena, London

### Jess Glynne
**Sat 31** University SU, Cardiff
**Sun 1** O2 Academy, Birmingham
**Mon 2** Rock City, Nottingham
**Wed 4** Roundhouse, London
**Thu 5** O2 Academy, Bournemouth

### Knife Party
**Sat 31** O2 Academy Brixton, London

### Lapsley
**Mon 2** Deaf Institute, Manchester
**Tue 3** Bodega, Nottingham
**Wed 4** Dome, London

### Lucy Rose
**Fri 30** Button Factory, Dublin
**Sun 1** University, Leeds
**Mon 2** Phoenix, Exeter
**Tue 3** Chinnerys, Southend

### Nothing But Thieves
**Fri 30** Electric Ballroom, London
**Sat 31** Victoria Warehouse, Manchester
**Sun 1** Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff
**Mon 2** The Haunt, Brighton

### Radkey
**Fri 30** Bodega, Nottingham
**Sat 31** Sound Control, Manchester
**Mon 2** King Tut's, Glasgow
**Tue 3** O2 Academy, Newcastle
**Wed 4** Key Club, Leeds
**Thu 5** Dome, London

### Rat Boy
**Sat 31** Victoria, London
**Tue 3** Hoxton Bar & Kitchen, London

### Richard Hawley
**Fri 30** Vicar Street, Dublin
**Sun 1** O2 Academy, Leeds
**Mon 2** Albert Hall, Manchester
**Tue 3** Sage, Gateshead
**Thu 5** Barrowlands, Glasgow

### Slaves
**Wed 4** Limelight, Belfast

### Songhoy Blues
**Wed 4** KOKO, London

### Sundara Karma
**Sun 1** Joiners Arms, Southampton
**Mon 2** Louisiana, Bristol
**Tue 3** Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff
**Wed 4** Magnet, Liverpool

### The Undertones
**Fri 30** Britannia Theatre, Chatham

### Vant
**Fri 30** Duchess, York
**Wed 4** Portland Arms, Cambridge
**Thu 5** Waterfront, Norwich

### Years & Years
**Wed 4** QUBSU, Belfast
**Thu 5** Olympia Theatre, Dublin

**For tour news and live reviews go to NME.com**

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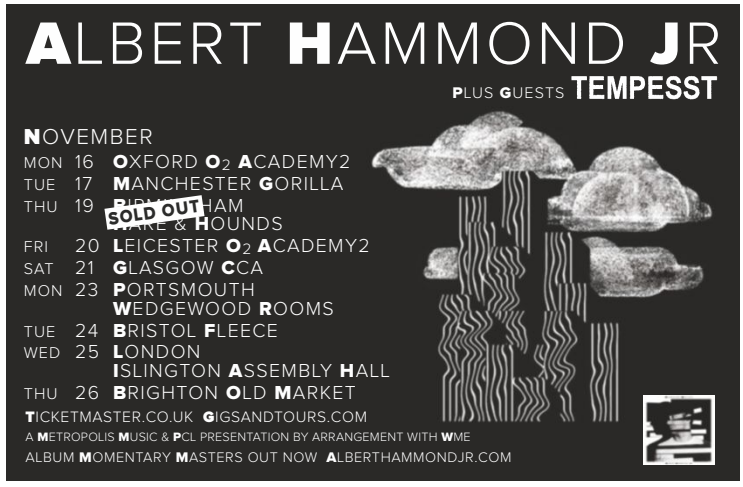
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| SUN | 22 | CAMBRIDGE CORN EXCHANGE |
| MON | 23 | BRIGHTON DOME |
| TUE | 24 | SOUTHAMPTON O2 GUILDHALL |
| WED | 25 | LEEDS O2 ACADEMY |
| FRI | 27 | READING HEXAGON |
| SAT | 28 | BRISTOL COLSTON HALL |

**JANUARY 2016**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| FRI | 15 | GLASGOW BARROWLAND |
| SOLD OUT | 18 | MANCHESTER ALBERT HALL |
| TUE | 19 | MANCHESTER ALBERT HALL EXTRA DATE |
| THU | 21 | LONDON O2 ACADEMY BRIXTON |
| SOLD OUT | 22 | LONDON O2 ACADEMY BRIXTON |
| SAT | 23 | LONDON O2 ACADEMY BRIXTON EXTRA DATE |

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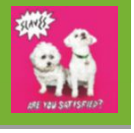


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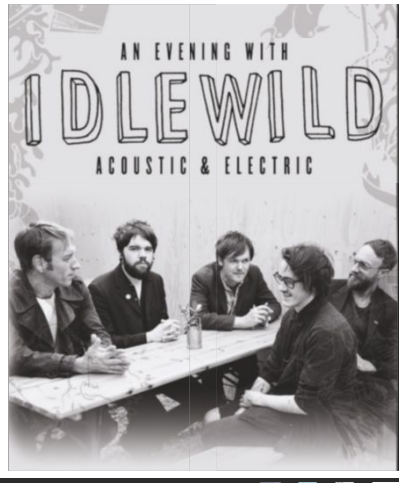


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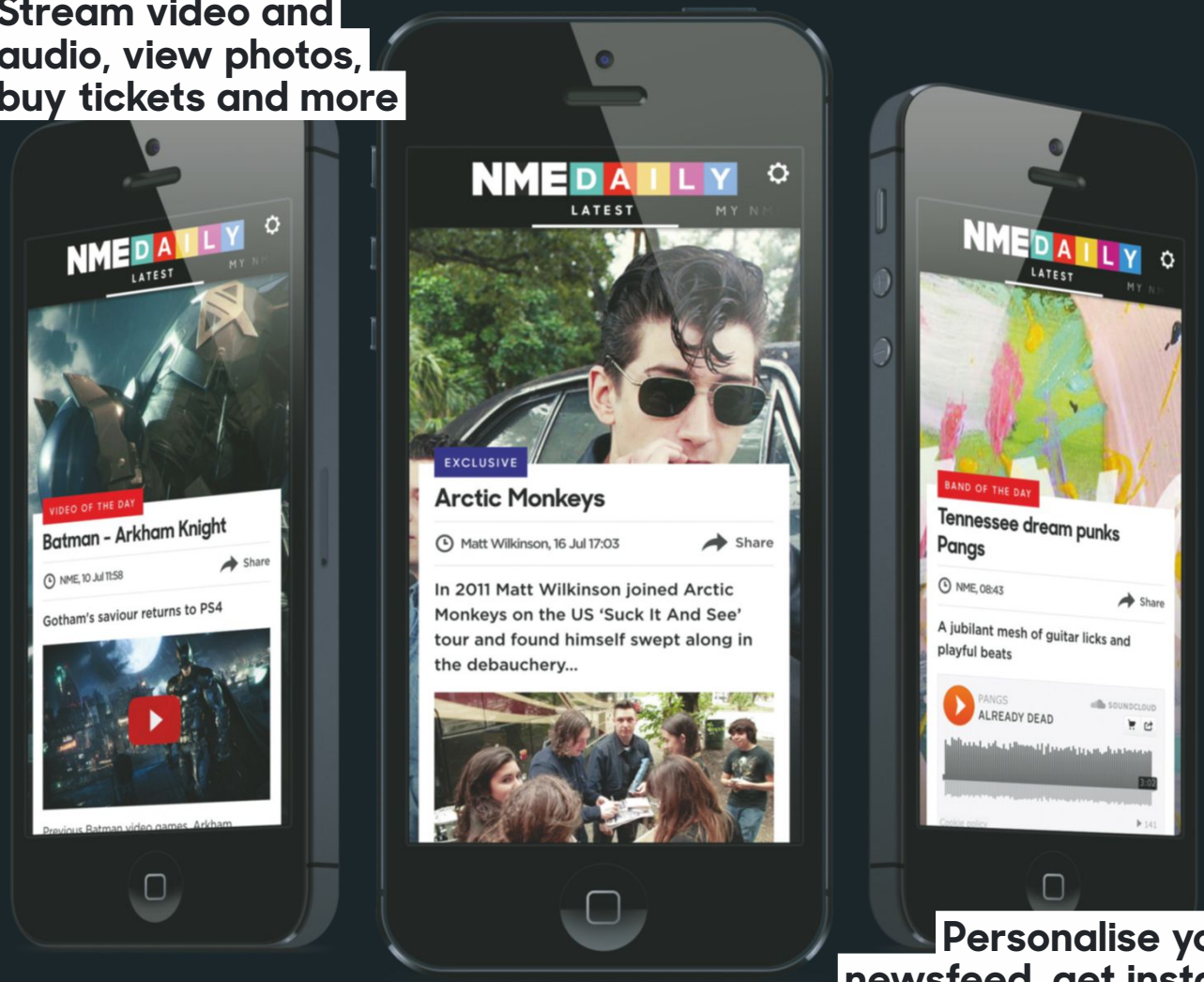


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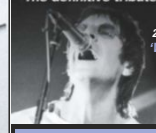

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# Soundtrack of my life

## Example

**Rapper-turned-singer-songwriter**

### The first song I remember hearing

**PAVAROTTI**

***Nessun Dorma***

"My dad had a good vinyl collection and was very proud of his one Technics 210 deck. He had a load of Motown, Kinks, David Bowie, The Stones and a Pavarotti record. He would put on 'Nessun Dorma' at really high volume while he was vacuuming. Every time I hear it now, I still think of it as 'The Vacuuming Song'."

### The band that made me want to make music

**THE STREETS**

"Growing up, I never wanted to be a rapper or a singer or make music. Then I heard The Streets. 'Original Pirate Material' was so unique. 'This guy isn't from a typical rap background,' I thought. 'He's just talking about stuff that I understand. Maybe I have got a story to tell. Maybe people will be interested in my life.'"

### The first album I bought

**LL COOL J**

***Bigger And Deffer***

"It was down at Our Price – remember them? – in Fulham. I didn't really know what genre I liked because I was so young. I just liked stuff that was catchy. I didn't know if it was metal or grunge or rap. I'd buy albums because their covers looked scary or interesting."

### The first song I fell in love with

**JAMES BROWN**

***It's A Man's Man's Man's World***

"This is the first time I remember hearing music and thinking, 'This is beautiful.' It's just so beautifully sung. It's got this really haunting quality because of the processing of the vocals and the EQ. You can almost hear the sound of the room they recorded it in. It's the first time I had a real respect for how powerful and emotional music could be."

### The song I do at karaoke

**WARREN G AND NATE DOGG**

***Regulate***

"My natural singing voice is as low as Nate Dogg's. [*Sings*] '*If you smoke like I smoke*'. I can nail that bit. The Warren G rapping isn't that difficult and I can do an American accent."

### The song I can no longer listen to

**EXAMPLE**

***Changed The Way You Kiss Me***

"I don't dislike the song, it's done really well for me. It's the reason I've got other big songs. It's the song that got me attention overseas and allowed me to tour the world. But if it comes on the radio, I've got to turn it off."

### The song that makes me want to dance

**SALT-N-PEPA**

***Push It***

"It's a proper wedding smasher, isn't it? If you put this on at a party it's impossible for everyone to not feel it. I'm normally more of a head nodder than a dancer, but if I've drunk enough, I'll dance when this comes on."

### The song I want played at my funeral

**EXAMPLE**

***One More Day***

[*Laughs*] "You could play this because the chorus goes, '*Stay with me for just one more day*', and obviously I wouldn't be there for one more day. I'd be dead!"

### The song I wish I'd written

**NIRVANA**

***Something In The Way***

"Kurt Cobain's writing style is something I admire so much. I've got a song called 'See The Sea' on my second album 'Won't Go Quietly' and we almost started with that song as a reference. I've started with that song as a reference four or five times."

### The song that reminds me of starting to sing

**JOSE GONZALEZ**

***Heartbeats***

"I was always really shy about singing. Then I stood up in a pub on someone's birthday and sang this. I sung it in my deep voice and everyone was like, 'It's beautiful when you sing in your own voice.' That gave me the confidence to go and record 'Kickstarts', which was my first hit and had me singing on it."

**Example's new single 'Whiskey Story' is out now**

**Go to NME.com for more Soundtracks**

## NME WORD

**The wisdom of the *NME* archives**

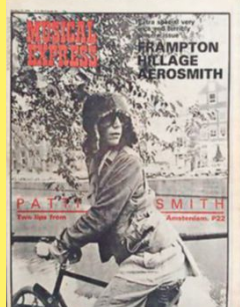
**THIS WEEK**

**PATTI SMITH**

***Punk poet***

**October 23, 1976**

"If you're relentlessly into something and you're into sound, it gets to the point where it doesn't matter whether you're good or evil or dream or nightmare, you get great no matter who you are."




INTERVIEW: RICH PELLEY PHOTOS: DEAN CHALKLEY, GETTY

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